FRIDAY
February 14, 2025

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WAQF BILL REPORT

Opposition protests censorship of dissent

NEWS » PAGE 15

SIGNIFICANT RETREAT

Adani Green exits Sri Lanka energy project

WORLD » PAGE 18

PROTESTS IN M.P.

Unloading of Union Carbide waste begins

NEWS » PAGE 16

PARLEY

Will ad-hoc HC judges help reduce backlog?

SC move gives rise to numerous questions

OPINION » PAGE 13

FIVE TEAMS, ONE GOAL

WPL Season 3 gets under way today

SPORT » PAGE 19

Strife-hit Manipur put under President's Rule

President Droupadi Murmu issues proclamation under Article 356 after receiving a report from Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla; Assembly under suspended animation, not dissolved, says State govt.

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Four days after Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh resigned, President's Rule was imposed on Thursday in the northeastern State that has been affected by ethnic violence for the past two years.

President Droupadi Murmu issued a proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution after receiving a report from Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

The order said she was satisfied that a situation had arisen that the "government of that State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of Constitution of India".

A statement by the Manipur government said the "Manipur Legislative Assembly will be under suspended animation".

The Assembly has not been dissolved, a government official said. The State Assembly's tenure is till 2027. The administrative and other security-related decisions will now be taken by Governor Bhalla.

Ms. Murmu issued the proclamation on Thursday, an hour after both Houses of Parliament were adjourned till March 10 at the conclusion of the first half of the Budget Session.

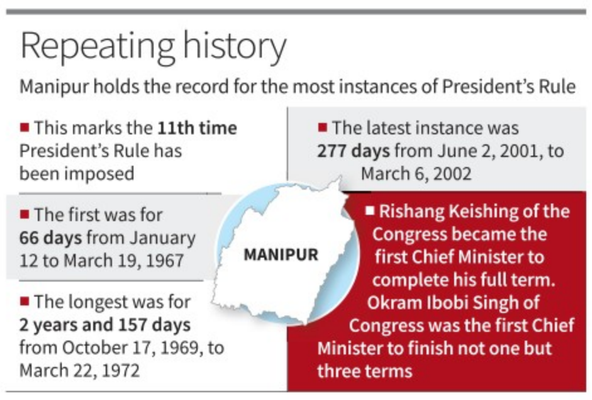
Article 356 (3) of the Constitution states that the proclamation shall be laid before each House of Parliament and shall cease to operate at the expiration of two months unless approved by resolutions of both Houses of Parliament.

A political crisis had emerged in the State after Mr. Singh stepped down on February 9 following a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah. The BJP State leadership failed to reach a consensus on an alternative leadership to replace Mr. Singh.

More than 250 people have been killed and around 60,000 people displaced in the ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people in the State that erupted on May 3, 2023.

The last time President's Rule was imposed in the State, it remained in force for 277 days – from June 2, 2001 to March 6, 2002.

'HOME MINISTER FAILED' » PAGE 14


Repeating history
Manipur holds the record for the most instances of President's Rule
This marks the 11th time President's Rule has been imposed
The first was for 66 days from January 12 to March 19, 1967
The longest was for 2 years and 157 days from October 17, 1969, to March 22, 1972
The latest instance was 277 days from June 2, 2001, to March 6, 2002
Rishang Keishing of the Congress became the first Chief Minister to complete his full term. Okram Ibobi Singh of Congress was the first Chief Minister to finish not one but three terms
MANIPUR

Modi-Trump talks: tariffs, trade and immigration set to take centre stage

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Washington on Wednesday evening (early Thursday Indian time) for bilateral talks with U.S. President Donald Trump, presumably with the objective of managing the relationship with the newly re-elected President, whose style revolves around an 'America First' ethos and a trademark unpredictability.

Mr. Modi, who flew into Washington after a visit to France, is one of the early visitors – the fourth foreign leader – to visit the White House since Mr. Trump returned to power on January 20.

Tariffs, trade in defence and energy, immigration, and the Indo-Pacific are on the menu for Thursday's bilateral discussions at the White House. The days and hours in the run up to the meeting were not without drama. Last week, the government faced flack in Parliament after the Trump administration deported 104 Indian citizens to India, shackling many of them.

On Thursday morning, Mr. Trump announced that he would be signing an executive order on reciprocal tariffs in the afternoon – three hours before the meeting with Mr. Modi.

Mr. Trump has already shocked the world by reinstating 25% tariffs on steel and aluminium, imposing tariffs on China, announcing - and then pausing - tariffs on Mexico and Canada.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard in Washington DC on Wednesday. ANI

Namma Metro fare hike capped at 71%

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid massive backlash, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) on Thursday announced a revision of its fare structure, capping the maximum stage-wise fare increase at 71%, following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's directive earlier in the day to roll back what he termed "abnormal" fare hikes.

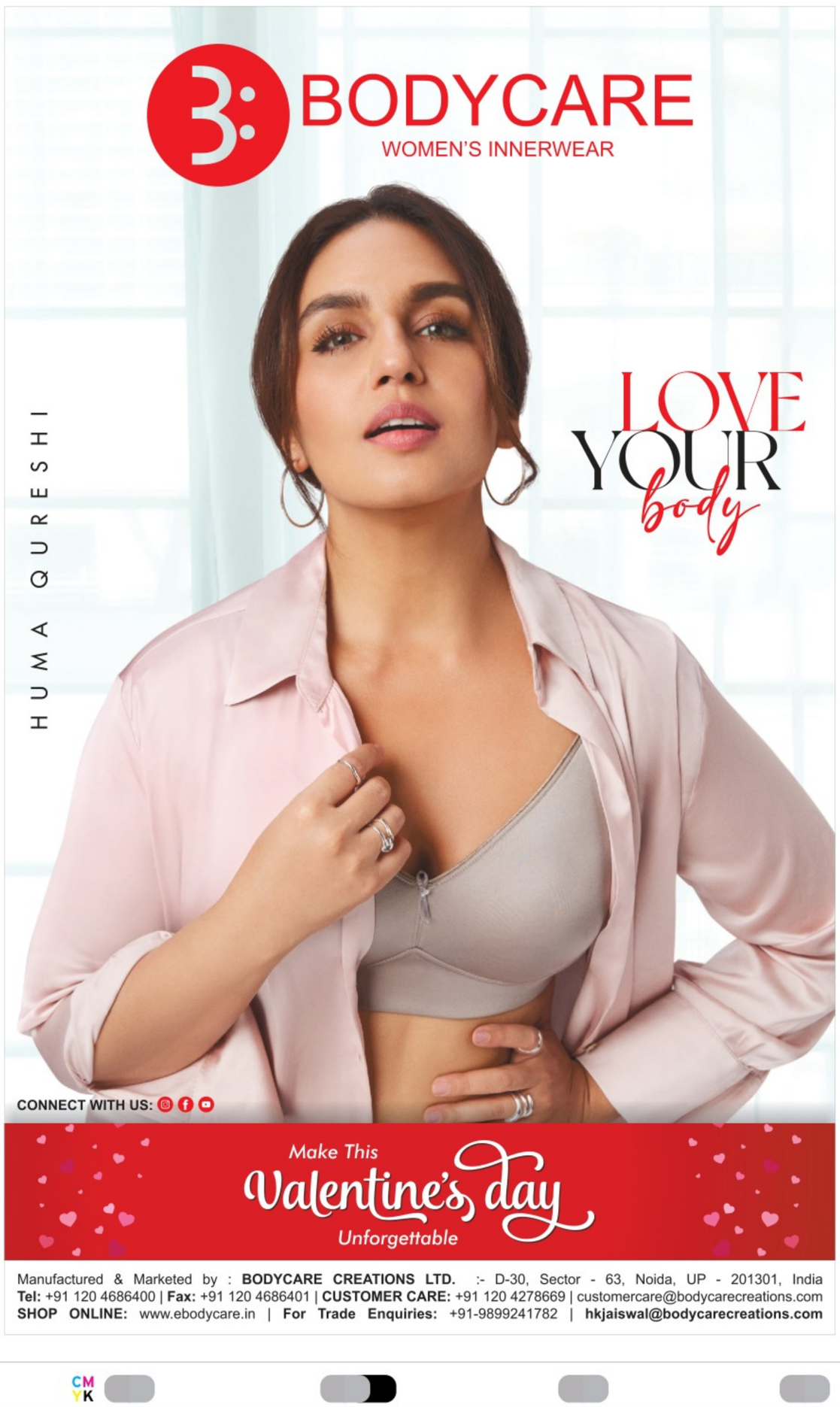
However, the base fare and the highest ticket price will remain unchanged at ₹10 and ₹90, respectively.

BMRCL managing director M. Maheshwar Rao said the recalibrated fare slabs would take effect by Friday.

"The maximum hike for metro fares has been capped at 71% after reviewing the structure," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 5

METROPLUS » PAGES 9 & 11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Retirement and timing — always not the best of friends

Sri Lanka stalwart Karunaratne will have reason to look back at his last match with some fondness even though he didn't have a great game and his team lost; at the same venue where Muralitharan bowed out of Tests in true showman fashion, tasting success with his final ball, the left-handed opener's wasn't quite as electric

AP

R. Kaushik

Retirement from competitive sport is a very personal decision. Especially after India's 1-3 defeat in Australia last month, there were calls for Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, the senior batting duo, to call it quits, which was both naïve and uncalled for. When a player, any player, bows out is entirely up to them. In a team environment, if someone doesn't measure up to scratch for a significant length of time, decision-makers can choose to move on and look beyond individuals, but no one has the right to demand a retirement.

When to retire is a question sportspersons have grappled with, mainly unsuccessfully, from time immemorial. It is said that one must go when people ask 'Why' and not 'When', and while that does sound simplistic enough, it truly is not. There is always the temptation to play one more match, one more series, to tilt at the windmills one more time. Competitive sport is an addiction to those who have been in it for years on end, but there will eventually come a time when the mind and/or the body will send out messages that enough is enough. Not everyone heeds these messages, often to their own detriment, as history will testify.

For a celebrated athlete to go out in a blaze of glory is the ultimate denouement of a career most glorious. Like Sachin Tendulkar did, in November 2013. In front of his adoring home fans at his beloved Wankhede Stadium, after 24 extraordinary years of playing for the country with unwavering commitment and passion. Tendulkar's final international outing was a staggering 200th Test appearance - that's, give or take a few, 1,000 days of Test cricket alone - for the little master from Mumbai, who entertained and enthralled and enchanted so many for so long with his command and mastery over his craft.

To resounding echoes of 'Saaa-chin, Saa-chin', Tendulkar bowed out in a manner befitting his standing as the greatest Indian batter of all time.

There wasn't a dry eye at the Wankhede when he delivered a stirring speech at the conclusion of the Test against West Indies; the humility that nestles in him despite all his myriad accomplishments manifested itself in a solitary trek to the centre of the ground and the obeisance he paid the 22-yard strip that had been his best buddy as well as his greatest challenge for more than half his life. Not everyone gets to savour a farewell to remember like Tendulkar did, but then again, not everyone is Tendulkar, are they? Numerous accomplished superstars have exited in relative anonymity, including Sunil Gavaskar, the man synonymous with Indian batting, the one who brought respect and dignity and class and solidity to Indian batsmanship.

Delaying the announcement

The last of Gavaskar's 125 Tests was at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru in March 1987, though not many were aware of it at the time. Gavaskar had made up his mind to retire from Test cricket at the end of the series against Pakistan - the Bengaluru game was the final act of the five-match showdown - but refrained from announcing so publicly because he wanted one final tilt at Lord's, which was to host a five-day first-class game between MCC and a Rest of the World XI that same August.

The MCC Bicentenary match was in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Marylebone Cricket Club, founded in 1787, and one had to be an 'active' First Class player to be considered for selection, hence Gavaskar's decision to put off announcing his Test retirement. Lord's hadn't been too kind to the Indian opener, but he made amends in the Bicentenary match with a monumental 188, eventually falling, caught and bowled, to Ravi Shastri, the Indian left-arm spinner who played for MCC because in 1987, he was contracted to play for Glamorgan in the English County Championship.

Gavaskar did announce that the 50-over World Cup in the subcontinent would be his last international competition and, like Tendulkar, his final game for the country was at the Wankhede, though there wasn't much individual or team delight as he was bowled by Phil DeFreitas for four and India went down by 35 runs in the semifinal to Mike Gatting's England.

Farewells can be both exhilarating and painful at the same time. Steve Waugh had an entire farewell Test series when India travelled down under in 2003-04 for four matches, as did his opposite number on that tour, Sourav Ganguly, who announced before the first of four Tests against Australia in 2008 that he would be bidding goodbye to international cricket at the conclusion of the final Test in Nagpur. These were planned retirements, unlike Anil Kumble's, for instance.

The champion leg-spinner was, belatedly, made the Test captain in 2007, magnificently oversaw a draining tour of Australia in 2007-08 when Harbhajan Singh was accused of racist abuse by Andrew Symonds, and had more or less made up his mind to quit alongside Ganguly after the Nagpur outing. Unfortunately, he split the webbing in his left hand on the third day of the third Test at the Ferozeshah Kotla (where he took 10 for 74 against Pakistan in 1999) while attempting a catch, an injury that necessitated 11 stitches and all but ruled him out of the last match. Kumble's impromptu decision to retire in Delhi brought the crowds in droves to the venue closest to his heart and he went out like a lion, on the shoulders of his long-term successor, Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Dhoni himself quit Test cricket abruptly in the middle of a series in Australia in December 2014, his retirement made public by a sanitised press release from the Board of Control for Cricket in India, minutes after Captain Cool had addressed a routine post-match press conference in Melbourne which gave no hint of the seismic development that lay immediately ahead. Dhoni did play white-ball international cricket for more than four and a half years after that though again, his retirement announcement was abrupt, revealed through a social media post more than 13 months after his last hurrah for the country.

Like Dhoni, there was no on-field send-off for the terrific duo of Rahul Dravid and V.V.S. Laxman, whose careers ran parallel for more than 16 years. Both made their Test debuts in 1996, Dravid a few months before Laxman, and played their final Tests in Adelaide in January 2012. Dravid retired not long after the conclusion of that series, one to forget for him like it was for Laxman, who followed suit in August, days after being named in the squad to face New Zealand in two Tests.

The provocation for this piece stems from the last fling in Test cricket last week of Dimuth Karunaratne, the left-handed Sri Lankan opener who walked away from the sport after the loss in the second of two Galle Tests to Australia recently. Karunaratne wasn't just another batter, he was one of the pillars of the Sri Lankan side in the post Mahela Jayawardene-Kumar Sangakkara era. His farewell game was also his 100th Test, a grand feat for someone who primarily played only one format internationally. Karunaratne never played a Twenty20 International and his 50 ODIs were spread over 12 and a quarter years, which puts 100 Test caps in perspective.

The 36-year-old led Sri Lanka in 30 Tests - he averaged 49.86 in games where he was captain, a vast improvement on his career average of 39.25 - and used dogged determination and stubborn resistance rather than delectable stroke-making as his preferred mode of operation. At the same venue where the great Muttiah Muralitharan bowed out of Test cricket in 2010 in true showman fashion - he tasted success with his final ball to finish with a scarcely imaginable 800 scalps - Karunaratne's exit wasn't quite as electric.

When he came out to bat in the first innings, the Australians recognised his contributions by offering him a guard of honour and when he was dismissed for 14 in his last innings, skipper Steve Smith and senior offie Nathan Lyon sprinted up to him for a congratulatory pat on the back for a career notable for perseverance and endurance. In the stands and on the grass banks, the travelling Australian fans outnumbered Sri Lankan supporters but there was more than just a fair smattering of applause for one of the great servants of Sri Lankan cricket, a quiet, no-fuss performer who didn't shy away from addressing contentious issues with regard to the state of the domestic game in his country.

But at least Karunaratne will have reason to look back at his final Test with some fondness, even though he didn't have a great game and his team was beaten by nine wickets. It's debatable if Jacques Kallis, clearly the greatest all-rounder of the modern game and arguably of all time, will entertain similar emotions. The Boxing Day Test against India in Durban in 2013 was the South African legend's last act in Test cricket. He marked that occasion with his 45th century, setting up his team's 10-wicket victory just 40 days after Tendulkar called it quits, but there wasn't a sea of fans to cheer him into the sunset, no elaborate sendoff, no grand farewell.

Kallis made 13,289 runs, took 292 wickets and held 200 catches in 166 Tests; when he retired from international cricket in July 2014, the corresponding ODI numbers were 11,579 runs, 273 wickets and 131 catches from 328 matches. Least celebrated of the cricketing greats? No question. Kallis had the respect and the admiration of his peers and contemporaries, though he didn't excite the fans quite as much. Well, you can't have it all sometimes, can you?

THE GIST

- Karunaratne wasn't just another batter, he was one of the pillars of the Sri Lankan side in the post Jayawardene-Sangakkara era
- His farewell game was also his 100th Test, a grand feat for someone who primarily played only one format internationally
- The 36-year-old never played a T20I and his 50 ODIs were spread over 12-and-a-quarter years, putting his 100 Test caps in perspective

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Parisara Bhavana, No.49, Church Street, Bangalore-560001
Phone : 080-25581383, Fax : 080-25586321

No. PCB/04/BLD/2024-25/4747 Dated:11/02/2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER - CALL- 2

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The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from eligible tenderers through GOK e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by The Member Secretary for the following work:

Name of the work: Tender for Upgradation of existing air testing laboratory in central environment laboratory-1 at KSPCB Nisarga Bhavan, S.G.Halli, Bengaluru. Approx Value of the work: **Rs.39.79 lakhs.** All payments such as tender cost, EMD etc., shall be made in e-payment mode only.

For more details, please refer e-procurement web site: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

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Chief Environment Officer-2

DIPR/CP/5024/AKAR/2024-25

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
STATE HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY

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Phone No: 080-23113584 email id: **pdrch-hfws@karnataka.gov.in**

No. HFWS-IMM00THR(OTHR)/12/2024-IMMU (E-1499338) Date: 10/02/2025
Tender No :NHM/2024-25/IND0029

TENDER THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT

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National Health Mission invites Request for Proposal from Eligible Service Provider with necessary documents, Tender Notification for **Supply of GSM (SIM) based network services to temperature loggers for e-vin operation for the State of Karnataka.**

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The Invitation for Tender document can be downloaded through **"e-procurement portal"** from **13/02/2025** onwards and last date for receipt of tender is on or before **04/03/2025** at 05.30 pm. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 11:00 am to 05:30 pm.

(Approved by Mission Director - N.H.M)

Sd/-
Project Director (RCH)

DIPR/CP/5032/Zen/2024-25

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/NMP-Badam De-skinning/1954/2024-25 Date: 13-02-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

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Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed suppliers / manufacturers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline No. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of Completion
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2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 01-03-2025 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 03-03-2025 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

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Corporate Office : LEGAL & RECOVERY DEPT.
SVC Tower, Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (E), Mumbai- 400 055.

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the SVC Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,(Formerly Known as The Shamrao Vittal Co-operative Bank Ltd) will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis "Without Recourse" basis on **18.03.2025** for recovery of **Rs.10,83,214.50** (Rupees Ten Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen and Paise Fifty Only) as on **31/12/2024** together with future interest from **01/01/2025** at contractual rate plus legal costs/charges due to SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., the Secured Creditor from the borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor **1. M/s. Fleetintelly Serve Pvt. Ltd.**, Registered address at M-2, Inland Avenue, Commercial Complex Building, Kodialbail, Manglore 575002 AND 505/A/13, LIC Colony, Sadar Bazar, Tal. and Dist. Satara AND STPI, 4th Floor, IT Park, Hubali 580020 AND 825, 12th cross Road, Kalantra Technology, Siddharth Layout, Mysore, Karnataka 570011 AND unit no. 2&3 on upper ground floor Rukmini Kunj Appt., constructed at C.s.No. 599 Gurwar Peth, Satara. **2.Mrs.Gudibande Subba Rao Shivaranjani** R/o. 505/A/13, LIC Colony, Sadar Bazar, Tal.and Dist. Satara AND 98, Mico Layout, Arakere Banglore, 560076 AND C/O Sandeep Kumar Kulkarni, 78, Suparna, 6th Cross, 19th Main, C T Bed, Near T R Nagar Police Station, Banashankari 2nd stage, Bangaluru Karnataka 560070. **3. Mrs. Nagajyothi Gudibande Subba Rao** R/o. New Laxmipura Extension, Manchanahalli, Gauribidnur, Chikkaballapur 561211, **4. Mr. Raghuram Rao** R/o. 505/A/13, LIC Colony, Sadar Bazar, Tal. and Dist. Satara AND C/O Sandeep Kumar Kulkarni, 78, Suparna, 6th Cross, 19th Main, C T Bed, Near T R Nagar Police Station, Banashankari 2nd stage, Bangaluru Karnataka 560070 AND 98, Mico Layout, Arakere Banglore, 560076.

The reserve price will be **Rs. 11,00,000/-** (Rupees Eleven Lakh Only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 1,10,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Ten Thousand Only)

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Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division

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No. : E.E./R.D.W.&S.D./RMG/Quotation/AE.01/2279/2024-25 Date : 13-02-2025

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS FOR NON SR ITEMS REGARDING FEACAL SLUDGE AND SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

1. Sealed competitive quotations for Non SR Items Regarding Feacal Sludge and Septage Management Technology are invited by the undersigned.

2. Last date and time of receipt of quotations : You are requested to submit the sealed quotations super scribed on the envelope as "Quotations for SR Items Regarding Feacal Sludge and Septage Management Technology Due on 21-02-2025 at 11 a.m.

Sl. No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Delivery Period	Place of Delivery
01	Providing and Fixing in Position Steel Fibre reinforced concrete (S.F.R.C.) frame and covers of approved make including Loading, Unloading, Transportation, all taxes, etc. complete as directed by Engineer in charge (20 tonnes capacity).	1.0	07 Days	Ramanagara
02	Zinc Aluminium Tank.	1.0		
03	Supplying, Providing, Installing, Filling in Place Tiger Bio Filter Media (Filtration Media, Bacterial culture, Tiger Worms) including Transportation, Stacking in Place, Filling in layers as per Technology providers instructions, Labours etc complete. Etc. complete.	1.0		
04	Supplying of Specially Designed container for holding Filter media including Lightweight coco husk size (2-16 mm) and Bio media including mixture of Vermi Compost, Cocopeat and Bacterial Culture with special worms per designed quantity including Transportation & fixing in position as directed etc. complete.	1.0		
05	Bacterial Culture for Anaerobic Stabilization Reactor.	1.0		
06	Pump, EMG Flow meter, Panel, Reflux Valve.	1.0		
07	Tertiary Treatment Units including Pressure Sand Filter, Activated Carbon Filter.	1.0		
08	Manual Screen- size 1 m length x 0.5 m width of SS 304 MOC and Manual hand rake for cleaning screen of SS handle 1 m in length and cleaning area of 6 Nos. 10 mm SS rod of total length 200 mm straight and 50 mm of 90 degree bend. Screen (Manual) 1.0m X 0.50m SS 304 MOC.	1.0		
09	Ozone Disinfection system 5 gram per hr. system Type of cooling - Are cooling. Working principal - High voltage discharge Power rating - 200 Watt / Single phase / aire pump inbuilt.	1.0		

We look forward to receive your quotations through mail and post also.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDWS&S Division, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/582/Manipal/2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public that our Clients entered into: (i) a Letter of Intent for Proposed Purchase dated July 26, 2024; and (ii) an Agreement to Sell on August 23, 2024 with **MR. VALADI SITARAMAN RAJAMANI**, son of Late V. K. Sitaraman and **MRS. PREMA RAJAMANI**, wife of Mr. Valadi Sitaraman Rajamani, both then residing at #205, Raheja Mansion, 13th Milton Street, Cooke Town, Bengaluru-560 005, with respect to Villa No.474, measuring a built-up area of 3466 sq. ft., constructed on Plot No.474 with a plot area of 3500 sq. ft., situated in the residential project "Adarsh Palm Retreat-Villas" in Devarabisanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, more-fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the "**Schedule B Property**". The Schedule B Property is situated on Survey No. 16 measuring an extent of 3 Acres 5.42 Guntas (12,688.67 Sq. Mtrs.) situated at Devarabisanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk more-fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the "**Schedule A Property**".

Our Clients are in the process of completing the terms and conditions outlined in the aforementioned documents with respect to the Schedule B Property.

Therefore, we hereby caution the general public against entering into any agreement, deed, memoranda, letters etc. to purchase, attempt to purchase, or otherwise acquire any right and/or interest in the Schedule B Property. Any such transaction will be at the person(s)' own risk and will be subject to legal challenge at such person(s)' risk, costs and consequences.

Any person who has been approached regarding the sale of the Schedule B Property is requested to contact the undersigned immediately.

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

All that portion of the Residentially converted Property bearing Survey No. 16 measuring an extent of 3 Acres 5.42 Guntas (12,688.67 Sq. Mtrs.) situated at Devarabisanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (formerly Bangalore South Taluk) Bengaluru, and bounded on the: East by : Remaining portion of Survey No.16
West by : Remaining portion of Survey No.16
North by : Private Property
South by : Road

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Building bearing Villa No. 474 having a total built-up area admeasuring 3466 sq. ft., constructed on the Plot bearing No. 474 totally admeasuring 3500 sq. ft., at "ADARSH PALM RETREAT-VILLAS" situated on the Schedule 'A' Property. The walls are built out of Brick and Cement with Marble Tiles Flooring and R.C.C Roofing with electricity, water and sanitary connections. The wood used is Teak and the Villa is bounded on the:

East by : Residential Building Bearing Villa No. 477;
West by : Access;
North by : Residential Building Bearing Villa No. 475; and
South by: Residential Building Bearing Villa No. 473.

MD&T PARTNERS
ADVOCATES

MD&T Partners, Advocates,
367, 14th Cross, Sadashivanagar,
Bangalore - 560 080,
Karnataka.
Phone no. 080-41520682/3/4
Email: mythri@mdtpartners.com

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

FORM URC-2

Advertisement Notice about Registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act (Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorized to Register) Rules, 2014)

1. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after **Fifteen days** here of but before the expiry of **Thirty days** hereinafter to the Registrar of Companies, Bengaluru, Karnataka, that **Shilton Hospitality LLP,** a partnership firm may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013, as a company limited by shares.
2. **Principal Objects**
   The principal objects of the company are as follows:
   1. To carry on the business of hospitality and tourism.
   2. To establish, maintain, and operate hotels, resorts, and other hospitality services.
   3. To provide catering, event management, and travel services.
   4. To engage in any other lawful business activities incidental or ancillary to the above objects.
3. **Memorandum and Articles of Association**
   A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office No. 2/1 Ulsoor Road, Bangalore - 560 042, during business hours.
4. **Objections**

Notice hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at **Central Registration Centre (CRC) Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) Plot No. 6, 7 & 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar Gurugram, Haryana - 122 050,** within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the Company, at the Registered Office.

Dated this 13th day of February 2025 Name(s) of Applicant(s)
1.Mr. Shyamsunder Kishanchand Chawla 2.Mr. Jitesh Kanani

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ–590–002
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:0831–2407201 E-mail: ceo_zp_bgm@nic.in

No.ZP.MGNREGA.CR.78.2024-25 Date 12-02-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

As announced in the budget for the year 2024-25, under the MGNREGA tenders have been invited from eligible contractors for the supply of materials on percentage basis "MANAGEMENT & RECLAMATION OF PROBLEMATIC SOILS in ATHANI, KAGWAD ,CHIKKODI, MUDALAGI ,GOKAK, HUKKERI & RAIBAG Talukas. Through e-procurement Under Rule 28 in KTPP Act.

Tender Form is available in http://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in
Tender Amount Rs. 3,50,17,000.00 (Three Crore Fifty lakhs seventeen thousand only)
S.No:1:Details :Tender date of online Publication: Date:14-02-2025, S.No:2:Details:Date of Pre-Bid meeting :Date:21-02-2025, S.No:3:Details:Last date of tender submission: Date:05-03-2025, S.No:4:Details:Venue of tender opening : Date:Z.P.Belagavi, S.No:5:Details :Date of Opening Technical Bid:Date:10-03-2025 S.No:6:Details :Date of Opening Financial Bid:Date:Will be intimidated later

Sd/-Project Director (DRDA)
Zilla Panchayat Belagavi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1672/KSMCA/2024-25

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ2.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:45:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:12–02–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್ ಬಿ ಎಂ 2.0 ಸಾಮಾರ್ಥ್ಯಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಘಟಕದಡಿ ಅನುದಾನ– 01ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ ವಂತಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸುವುದು – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ:– 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಜನರಲ್ ಬೇಸಿಕ್ ಗ್ರಾಂಟ್ (ಮುಕ್ತ ನಿಧಿ ಶೇಕಡ 40 ರಷ್ಟು) (ಉಳಿಕೆ) – 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ಅನುದಾನ ನಿಧಿ (ಬಿ.ಆರ್.ಜಿ.ಎಫ್) (ಉಳಿಕೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ. 2.0 ಅನುದಾನ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಳಿಗೆ ನಿಧಿ & ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ. ನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 09 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.1 ರಿಂದ 06, 08, 09 ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17–02–2025 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 25–02–2025 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 25–02–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 27–02–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.05

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.07 ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17–02–2025 ಫ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 21–02–2025 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 07–03–2025 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 07–03–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 10–03–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.05

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/743/
ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

Office of the Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi.
E-Mail:- eecivil.gescom@gmail.com CIN:U04010KA2002SGC030436

No:GESCOM/CEE(O)/EE(C)/AEE(C)/2024-25/63936-966 Date: 12-02-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-procurement only)

On behalf of GESCOM, the undersigned invites tender through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works detailed below.

Sl. No	Name of work	Amt put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	Earnest money deposit (Rs. in lakhs)	Time limit for completion of work including monsoon	Class of contractor/ firm.
1	a) Construction of Circle office building at Koppal. b) Construction of sub division office building at Kukanur. **(GESCOM/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT172)**	1860.12	18.60	18 months	Class-I
2	Construction of sub division office building at Kotturu, Kampli, Kurugodu. (3 Nos), **(GESCOM/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT173)**	622.84	9.35	18 months	Class-I
3	Construction of sub division office building at Devadurga. **(GESCOM/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT174)**	207.63	3.11	18 months	Class-II
4	a) Construction of sub division office building at Kamalapur. b) Construction of section office building at Narona, and Shantinagar Kalaburagi (2 Nos) c) Construction of meter and transformer testing lab at Kalaburagi. d) Construction of divisional store building at Shorapur. **(GESCOM/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT175)**	724.58	10.86	18 months	Class-I
5	Construction division office building at Bidar. **(GESCOM/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT176)**	847.46	12.71	18 months	Class-I
6	a) Construction of sub division office building at Bidar, Aurad (B), Bhalki, Basavaklyan, Chitaguppa, (05 Nos) b) Construction of section office building at Bidar. (D6 & D7), Chimkod, Wodgoan (04 Nos) **(GESCOM/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT 177)**	1309.32	13.09	18 months	Class-I

The tenderer should upload their tender through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also upload the duly completed tenders/ relevant documents within the stipulated date and time mentioned in website only. The intending contractors can obtain the tender details through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **13-02-2025.** The Bidders/ contractors need to register in the e-procurement portal to submit their bids through online, other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Calendar of Tendering:

1) Last date & time for clarifications and queries : **10-03-2025 up to 17.00 Hours**, 2) Date & Time of pre-bid meeting: **10-03-2025 up to 11.00 Hours**, 3) Last Date & Time for submission of bid: **13-03-2025 up to 17.00 Hours**, 4) Date & time for opening of Technical bid : **17-03-2025 up to 17.00 Hours**, 5) Date & Time of opening of financial bid: **20-03-2025 up to 17.00 Hours.**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/947/KSMC&A/2024-25

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy, (Operation),
Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASHWINI Patil, D/O: Vishwanath Shantlingappa Patil, R/O: No–128, 17th Main Road, Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Nagar, 2nd Stage, Btm Layout, Bengaluru –560076. Have Changed My Name to Ashwini Vishwanath Patil. Affidavit dated on 12/02/25.

I, FAISAL Shariff, S/o late Abdul Salam Shariff, residing at No.81/D, KHB Colony, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095 have changed the name of my minor Son Rayhaan Shariff to that of Mohammed Rayhaan Faisal vide affidavit dt: 13.02.2025 sworn before Notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT MYSORE
COM. ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 396 OF 2023

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd., A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara-390007. And having branch Office ICICI Bank Ltd., retail Assist Product, 1st Floor, Deekshas Setty Mansion, Ch-34/2, 3, 4, Ramavilas Road, Mysore- 570024 and represented by its POA holder and Manager Mr. Natesh. K.M., S/o Mahadevaish. P., aged about 39 years ...Plaintiff
AND:
Defendant:
Chikkadevamm Mahila Swa Sahaya Sangha Hampapura, Nestara Colany, HD Kote. Mysuru and other's ...Defendant

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication

To,
Defendant No 1:
Chikkadevamm Mahila Swa Sahaya Sangha Hampapura, Nestara Colany, HD Kote, Mysuru.

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 5,09,183/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court in person or by a pleader on on the 25th Day of February, 2025 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 28th day of January, 2025

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer
Court of Senior Civil Judge and CJM, Mysuru

Advocate for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No.4 (10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560001

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND CJM, AT MYSORE
O.S. No. 1154/2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd., A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara-390007. And having branch Office ICICI Bank Ltd., retail Assist Product, 1st Floor, Deekshas Setty Mansion, Ch-34/2,3,4, Ramavilas Road, Mysore- 570024 and represented by its POA holder and Manager Mr. Natesh K.M. S/o Mahadevaish P., aged about 39 years ...Plaintiff
AND:
Sri S. Mahadevaswamy ...Defendant

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication

To,
Defendant:
Sri S. Mahadevaswamy, S/o Siddaiah, Aged about 60 years, R/at No. 39, IInd Stage, 3rd Cross, Near Bhiraveshwara College, Hebbal, Mysore- 570016

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 11,79,701/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court in person or by a pleader on on the 25th Day of February, 2025 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 28th day of January, 2025.

By Order of the Court
Chisf Ministerial Officer
Court of Senior Civil Judge and CJM, Mysuru

Advocate for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No.4 (10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore- 560001.

SITUATION VACANT

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND CJM AT MYSORE
O.S. No. 1157/2022

BETWEEN:
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007. And having branch Office ICICI Bank Ltd., retail Assist Product, 1st Floor, Deekshas Setty Mansion, Ch-34/2,3,4, Ramavilas Road, Mysore-570024 and represented by its POA holder and Manager Mr. Natesh K. M. S/o Mahadevaish. P, aged about 39 years, ...PLAINTIFF
AND:
Sri S. Mahadevaswamy ...DEFENDANT

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication

To,
Defendant:
1) Sri Sri. M.M. Ravikumar S/o M.D. Mallesh
Aged about 30 years
Proprietor of Bhagyalakshmi oil traders, R/at. Kattaya Hobli, Muddanahalli, Near Laxmi Devi Temple, Hassan-573128.

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs.6,18,062/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on the 25th Day of February, 2025 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 28th day of January, 2025.

By Order of the Court
Chirf Ministerial Officer
Cout of Seniar Civil Judge and CJM, Mysuru

Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No. 4 (10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560001.

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Upper hand: An American F-35 flies over Russia's fifth generation Su-57E fighter jet on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Big following: A large number of visitors were present on the fourth day of Aero India. K. MURALI KUMAR

Aero India: Fighter jets and U.S. bomber illuminate city skies

Considered the backbone of America's long-range bomber force, the B-1B Lancer made its first appearance at this edition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After three days of intense ministerial-level meetings, conclaves, and signings of memoranda of understanding between major armament companies, the gates of the Air Force Station in Yelahanka were open to the general public on Thursday.

The first half of day four of Aero India 2025 saw the Light Utility Helicopter, Su-30 Mki, F-16, Hansa, HTT-40, IJT, FBT, LCKA Mk-1A, and the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team taking part in the flying display.

Post lunch, the crowd which had gathered in large numbers at the air display viewing area and the open area near the tarmac got a glimpse of the United States Air Force (USAF) heavy bomber, the B-1B Lancer. This was the B-1B Lancers' first appearance at this year's Aero India.

Metal bird: The B-1B Lancer of the United States Air Force took to the skies on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Though the participation of the B-1B Lancer, also known as 'Bone' (for B-one), was confirmed by the U.S. authorities, it had so far not performed in the air show. The B-1B Lancer landed at the Kempegowda International Airport on February 11 and it was stationed there for the last couple of days.

The aircraft which carries the largest conventional payload of both guided and unguided weapons in the USAF is considered the backbone of America's long-range bomber force. The bomber did a couple of flypasts drawing the attention of the large crowd that had gathered at the air base.

This performance was followed by the Russian fifth generation fighter aircraft, the Su-57E, which has so far been the show-stopper of the air show with its pilot Sergey Bogdan performing complex manoeuvres.

After a quick display by a couple of other platforms it was the turn of the U.S.'s F-35 to perform.

The presence of these two fifth-generation fighter jets has added some zest to the air display element of the event.

The public display day concluded with the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team once again enthralling visitors with the graceful loop and the thrilling barrel roll.

The Hindu - Living Spaces 2025 Expo on Feb. 15, 16

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

THG Publishing Private Limited will host *The Hindu* - Living Spaces 2025 exhibition this weekend, offering a premier platform for real estate developers, investors, and homebuyers. The two-day event will take place at Tripura Vasini, Palace Grounds, near Mekhri Circle, on Saturday and Sunday, with timings from 10.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The expo will be inaugurated by N. Jayaram, commissioner of the Bangalore Development Authority. Visitors can look forward to exploring over 200-plus projects from a wide range of sectors, including real estate, financial institutions, interiors, and furnishings.

This year's expo is expected to be one of Bengaluru's largest gatherings of real estate and investment professionals, providing an unmatched range of options for buyers to choose from.

Ajmera leads the event as the title sponsor, with other prominent partners such as Sweet Home Realty (powered by sponsor) and Unitern (platinum sponsor). Additional sponsors include Canara Bank, Sumadhura, Bank of Baroda, Assetz, BDA, and Karnataka Housing Board as gold sponsors, and Puravankara, Ranka Group, Urbanest Realty, Elegant Builders and Developers, Earthen Projects, and Mother Earth as silver sponsors.

Associate sponsors include Sobha, DS max, ATZ Properties, Guru Punvaanii, Alliance Square, Nischitha properties, Central Bank of India, IDBI bank, Punjab National Bank, Moggs Estate, Lokations, Kuteera Realty, Sai Panchami, Krishi Viswa Housing Co-operative Society Ltd, Rions Infra Projects, Land Trades Builders and Developers, SB Sanctuary, CoEvolve Estates, Telecom Employees and other Housing Welfare Trust, Neev Mattress.

Exclusive auto partner is Hyundai; the jewellery partner is Prathibha Jewellery House; the gift partner is Smart Grahak; the food partner is Empire Restaurant, and the coffee partner is Levista Coffee.

Visitors also stand a chance to win prizes worth up to ₹10,000 every hour during the event. The entry to the expo is free, making it an unmissable opportunity for prospective buyers and investors alike.

With ample parking available, attendees are encouraged to visit the event and take advantage of this significant opportunity in Bengaluru's real estate landscape.

For further information, contact 9448364925.

Travel-Tourism Fair to end tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Around 160 stalls from eight States across India and two other countries have been set up at the Travel and Tourism Fair (TTF) Bengaluru 2025, a premier travel trade show which was inaugurated on Thursday and will go on till Saturday.

"There are various travel stakeholders like travel agents, adventure sports operators etc. from different States like Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Goa. We also have two international stalls set up by Nepal and Bhutan. We also have destination management companies from many places including Africa," said Salma K. Fahim, principal secretary, Tourism Department.

She also said that this is a good platform for buyers and sellers of tour packages to interact with each other.

"With the city's reputation as the Silicon Valley of India and a thriving hub for corporate travel, destination weddings, and high-spending travellers, TTF is opening doors to the next big travel market," the organisers said.

The first one-and-a-half days of the three-day show will be open only to business-to-business trade visitors. The remaining one-and-a-half day can be utlised by travel enthusiasts to discover new destinations, book their flight tickets, and secure good deals.

Two held for pushing youth to death from moving train

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Railway police on Thursday arrested two persons on the charge of murder for allegedly pushing a 28-year-old passenger from a moving train following argument over space.

The accused were identified as Devappa, 45, a gardener, and Peerappa, 31, a painter. According to the police, the victim Kumar M.G., a Channarayapatna resident, tried to sit by the door where the duo was sitting, sparking an argument. In the melee, the duo allegedly pushed Kumar off the running train. The duo has been charged with murder.

Tejasvi Surya takes a sortie

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tejasvi Surya, BJP MP, was flown in the Hindustan Turbo Trainer - 40 (HTT-40), a basic trainer aircraft, on the fourth day of Aero India 2025 on Thursday. The Bengaluru South MP undertook a sortie in the morning and it lasted a few minutes.

This is the second time he was flown in an aircraft during Aero India. In the 2021 edition, Mr. Surya went on a special sortie on the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

"The HTT-40 represents India's journey from scandal to self-reliance, from foreign dependency to *atmanirbharta* (self-reliance)," he said after the sortie.

The HTT-40 has been indigenously designed and developed by the Aircraft Research and Design Centre of HAL.

HAL signs agreements with Safran Aircraft Engines and Collins Aerospace

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a long-term contract with Safran Aircraft Engines (SAE) for the supply of turbine forged parts for their LEAP engines during Aero India.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the two companies in October 2023, to develop industrial cooperation with commercial engine parts manufacturing, as part of the Indian government's 'Make in India' policy. This is the first contract as part of this industrial co-operation.

Under the terms of this contract, HAL will produce forged parts for LEAP Engine at Ring Rolling facility at Foundry and Forge division in Bengaluru, supporting LEAP programme's ramp-up for global airline requirements.

HAL has also signed an agreement with Collins Aerospace to establish a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility at HAL Accessories complex in Lucknow. The licensing and spares agreement will enable the facility to provide repair and overhaul on electrical power generation systems for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

The facility will provide repairs and overhaul services for Collins Aerospace's Integrated Drive Generators (IDGs) and the Generator Control Units (GCUs) that power some Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter jets.

Godrej to build FCAs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The aerospace business of Godrej and Boyce, a part of Godrej Enterprises Group, has signed an MoU with the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) to build manufacture flight control actuators (FCA) for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

Under the MoU, the company will undertake comprehensive development of flight control actuators for AMCA.

Traffic snarls continue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Traffic moved at a snail's pace on Ballari Road as hundreds of vehicles headed to the Aero India venue on Thursday morning. There were massive traffic snarls on the busy road which connects the city and the Air Force Station in Yelahanka, and also the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA). The flyovers and service road were all choked with vehicles and some commuters took nearly an hour to reach the venue from the Hebbal flyover.

Owing to limited parking spaces, vehicles taking a turn to get into the parking lot caused traffic congestion.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
Plot No.12&13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58. Ph: 080-28094541/ 4178, Fax: 080-28094180

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **Sealed Item rate E-Tender** is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work in NIT by **Group Head,** ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-2809 4541, 2809 4178).

Name of work	**Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of Cassette Split A/C units for SDD Room at Gaganyaan Building, MOX2 Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.**
E-Tender Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/A.C/MAINT/E-Tender-74/ 2024-2025, Dated:12.02.2025**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 7.63 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tenders**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**45 days**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 14.02.2025 to 23.02.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid Clarification	**From 15.02.2025 to 24.02.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time for reply to Bid Clarifications	**25.02.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**26.02.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	**27.02.2025 after 11.00 Hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 15,260.00**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

JAYANAGAR 9TH BLOCK BRANCH
No. 1010, Jayanagar 9th Block Branch, 26th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore.
Email: ubin0910465@unionbankofindia.bank; Ph. No.: 9137110462

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for 30 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India** (Secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Depost are also mentioned hereunder:

Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: Borrower: Mr. S Kannaiah S/o K Venkataswamy, No. 616, 5th Cross, 1st Floor, 2nd Block, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru – 560050. **Also at:** #2069, 8th Main Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560010. **Co-Applicant: Ms. Kavitha K W/o Sri S Kannaiah,** No. 616, 5th Cross, 1st Floor, 2nd Block, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru – 560050. **Also at:** #2069, 8th Main Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560010.

Amount due: Rs.22,98,257.51/- as on **30.08.2024** plus interest, costs and incidental charges.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All that Piece and Parcel of Property bearing New Municipal No 745/A, PID No 54-302-745/A,formed and developed by Kempegowda HBCS LTD Carved Out of Sy. No 101/1, 101/3, 102, 105/2, 107/3, 108/1 and 108/2 Situated at Kathriguppe Village, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore South Taluk and measuring East to West 24 Feet and North to South 40 Feet in all measuring 960 Sq Ft and Bounded on: **East by:** Site No 746, **West By:** Site No 745, **North by:** Site No 748 and **South By:** Road and Residential Building constructed thereon.

Reserve Price: 1,18,65,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Eighteen Lakh, Sixty Five Thousand Only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs. 11,86,500/-
(Rupees Eleven Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Only)
Date and time of E-Auction: 27-03-2025 between 12:00 P.M. to 05:00 PM
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last Date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction
E-Auction website: https://baanknet.com

For Details terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://baanknet.com**
The online E-auction will be held through website: **https://baanknet.com**
For auction related queries e-mail to **ubin0910465@unionbankofindia.bank** or contact No. **9137110462,** No. 1010, Jayanagar 9th Block Branch, 26th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore

Date : 10.02.2025
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी

निविदा रद्द सूचना

एतत् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस प्रमंडल द्वारा आमंत्रित अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0– **RDD/SD /KHUNTI/06/2024-25** जिसका पी0आर0 संख्या **345545 RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2024-25)_D** अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है।

यह आदेश तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू समझा जाय।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
खूँटी

PR 346361 (Rural Development)24-25*D

BANK OF INDIA
RPC LAYOUT BRANCH
No. 46, 5th Main Road, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru -560040.
बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

GOLD AUCTION SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay of the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by registered post. They are therefore requested to payoff the liability, other charges and to redeem the pledged gold ornaments securities on or before **28-02-2025** failing which the said securities will be sold by the bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the bank's premises at **11.00 AM** on **01-03-2025** or any other convenient date without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the bank. We are withdrawing the previous auction paper publication notice dated 04-02-2025.

Borrower Name & Address	A/c. No.	Gross Weight	Net Weight	Outstanding Balance
1) Mr. Jain Nikint No. 2028, 2nd Floor, 1st Main Road, 12th A Cross, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage,Bengaluru 560040.	8423653 10001117	602.30 grms	552.00 grms	**22,25,186.08** + Uncharged interest
2) Mr. Rishabh Kothari No. 2/1, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Kamakshipalya, Vrushabhavathi, Bengaluru 560079.	8423653 10001116	592.30 grms	550.00 grms	**22,18,094.39** + Uncharged interest
3) (i) Mr. Sadha B (Borrower) No. 124, KHB Colony, Krishnananda Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru 560096. **(ii) Mrs. Asha S (Co-Borrower)** No. 9 1 12 Main Kempamma Layout, Lakshmidevi Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru 560096.	8423776 10000375 & 8423776 10000376	166.37 grms	120.10 grms	**5,67,961.95** + Uncharged interest
4) (i) Miss. Mamatha (Borrower) No. 49, Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru 560096. **(ii) Mrs. Asha S (Co-Borrower)** No. 9 1 12 Main Kempamma Layout, Lakshmidevi Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru 560096.	8423776 10000541	83.27 grms	70.80 grms	**3,99,295.00** + Uncharged interest

Date: 13.02.2025
Place: Bangalore.

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Bank of India.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUSEELA HARIDOSS W/O Sri. Haridoss Padmanabhan, aged about 64 years, Residing at No. 38 Fourth Cross Street, K K Nagar, Guduvancheri, Tamil Nadu – 603202, hereby declare that my name is changed to SUSEELA RAJARATHINAM for all practical purposes, vide affidavit dated 12/02/2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary K P Sumangala, Bangalore.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Notice of E-Auction of Pay and Use Toilet at GADAG and BELAGAVI

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work.

Name of work	Approx.Value
The award of contract for a period of three(3)years, for the operation of **Pay and Use Toilet at Gadag and Belagavi** Railway Stations. Catalogue No. PAYUSEFEB2025	NA

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.30 hrs on 28.02.2025
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Hubballi
PUB/786/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Application notification H/C.565/UTS/ STBA/HBI/UBL Divn/2024-25
Date: 07.02.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for appointment of Station Ticket Booking Agent (STBA) from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the areas of the location identified for engagement of STBA at Hagribomanhalli (HBI) station for issuing unreserved Tickets on Commission basis for a period of (03) Three years.

Station	Category station	Section
Hagribomanhalli	NSG-6	Hosapete-Kotturu

Last date of submission of bid:
Upto 11.00 hrs on 21.02.2025
Terms conditions and application form can be downloaded from **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/ Hubballi
PUB/782/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

Challenges of malaria vaccination, as elimination becomes achievable

Giovanni Grassi confirmed that only female Anopheles mosquitoes carried the parasite, but the full cycle was still unclear. The final breakthrough came in 1897 when Ronald Ross in India demonstrated that Plasmodium completed its life cycle in mosquitoes, proving they were malaria's vectors

C. Aravinda

A feeding female Anopheles gambiae mosquito. The species is a known vector for the parasitic disease malaria. AP

The WHO's recent declaration of Georgia as the 45th country to eliminate malaria is a significant milestone. Yet, even as we celebrate this achievement, a lingering question remains: if smallpox has been eradicated, why does malaria persist, and why is its vaccine far less effective than those for viral diseases? Despite decades of global efforts, malaria still causes over 240 million cases and more than 600,000 deaths annually.

The discovery of malaria's transmission was a fragmented journey, like a non-linear movie where different revelations come together to complete the puzzle at the end. Malaria was believed to be caused by miasma or foul air from swamps. This misconception persisted until Alphonse Laveran, a military doctor, identified the Plasmodium parasite in 1880, proving malaria was caused by a living organism. However, the question of how the parasite entered humans remained unanswered. In 1891, Patrick Manson hypothesised that mosquitoes played a role in transmission, though he lacked experimental proof.

Giovanni Grassi later confirmed that only female Anopheles mosquitoes carried the parasite, but the full cycle was still unclear. The final breakthrough came in 1897 when Ronald Ross in India demonstrated that Plasmodium completed its life cycle in mosquitoes, proving they were malaria's vectors. This scientific triumph had far-reaching consequences, allowing European colonial powers to survive in tropical Africa, where malaria had previously limited their expansion. In 1870, only 10% of Africa was under European control, but by 1914, nearly 90% of the continent had been colonised. Ironically, instead of liberating the populations most affected by malaria, the discovery of its transmission pathway paved the way for their subjugation, reinforcing colonial rule rather than dismantling it. Progress in science does not always translate to moral or equitable outcomes.

Understanding parasites

Knowing the parasite's life cycle is essential to understand the difficulty in developing vaccines. The cycle begins when an infected Anopheles mosquito bites a human, injecting Plasmodium sporozoites that are highly infective, into the bloodstream. These parasites first travel to the liver, invading liver cells and multiplying undetected by the immune system. After this phase, they re-enter the bloodstream, infecting red blood cells and causing malaria's characteristic fever and chills. As the parasite multiplies asexually within RBCs, some develop into sexual forms known as gametocytes, which are then taken up by another mosquito when it bites an infected individual. Inside the mosquito, these gametocytes undergo sexual reproduction, maturing into sporozoites that migrate to the mosquito's salivary glands, making the mosquito infectious to new human hosts.

Viruses are simpler in comparison, consisting of only genetic material (DNA or RNA) encased in a protein shell, and are relatively straightforward compared to parasites. Plasmodium is a protozoan parasite and eukaryotic organism with multiple stages of development, each featuring different surface antigens. Plasmodium species that infect humans – P. falciparum, P. vivax, P. ovale, P. malariae, and P. knowlesi have unique characteristics, adding to the challenge of vaccine development.

The malaria parasite masters deception, outmanoeuvring the human immune system. Its greatest strength is antigenic variation, where it frequently changes its surface proteins, making it difficult for immune cells to recognise it and respond. Plasmodium follows an intracellular lifestyle, hiding within the liver and RBCs, shielding itself from immune surveillance. This ability to evade detection weakens the body's ability to develop long-lasting immunity, making reinfection common. Adding to the challenge, malaria's life cycle spans multiple stages across two hosts–humans and mosquitoes–requiring any potential vaccine to target several phases simultaneously. So when a vaccine is developed, the parasite's genetic adaptability enables it to evolve resistance. Fighting malaria is like trying to corner a cunning politician who changes allegiance and ideology, senses the public sentiment, and always stays ahead of the game to remain in power. Plasmodium has been perfecting this trick for 30 million years, adapting and evolving to ensure its survival. When scientists find a way to combat one strain, the parasite shifts tactics, altering its proteins and genetic structure to bypass immunity. The adaptability makes it difficult to develop a universal and long-lasting vaccine.

Fighting malaria is like trying to corner a cunning politician who changes allegiance and ideology, senses the public sentiment, and always stays ahead of the game to remain in power. Plasmodium has been perfecting this trick for 30 million years, adapting and evolving to ensure its survival

Malaria vaccines

The RTS, S malaria vaccine became the first to receive WHO approval for large-scale rollout in endemic regions after 60 years of research. It targets the liver stage of the parasite's life cycle by inducing an immune response against the circum-sporozoite protein (CSP) found on Plasmodium sporozoites. This stage infects the liver after a mosquito bite. However, its efficacy is limited, reducing malaria cases by approximately 36% after four doses over four years in children. It is significantly lower than the 90-95% efficacy in vaccines for diseases like measles. Protection is also inconsistent, varying across age groups and transmission settings, and its effectiveness declines over time. RTS, S requires multiple doses, posing logistical challenges ensuring widespread distribution and coverage in resource-limited regions.

The R21/Matrix-M vaccine enhances the immune response with a stronger adjuvant and has shown 77% efficacy over 12 months. AP

Researchers are now developing second-generation malaria vaccines. One promising candidate is the R21/Matrix-M vaccine, which enhances the immune response with a stronger adjuvant and has shown 77% efficacy over 12 months. The PfSPZ vaccine, a whole-parasite vaccine, attenuates sporozoites to stimulate immunity against the liver stage of infection. RH5-based vaccines prevent Plasmodium from invading red blood cells and target the blood stage after symptoms. Meanwhile, transmission-blocking vaccines aim to halt the spread of malaria by preventing mosquitoes from becoming carriers, targeting proteins like Pfs25 and Pfs230, essential for parasite development within the mosquito.

Research underfunded

Malaria vaccine research has long suffered from underfunding . Since malaria primarily affects low-income countries in Africa and parts of South Asia, funding for research and healthcare infrastructure has remained limited. The availability of treatments for malaria has reduced the immediate urgency for vaccine development. Compounding this, the complexity of the parasite itself has discouraged pharmaceutical companies from investing in malaria vaccines, as the cost of research is high, and potential returns on investment remain uncertain. Countries are now facing a resurgence of the disease due to shifting mosquito habitats. An effective malaria control strategy will require a combination of more efficient vaccines, mosquito control & improved treatment options. The road to a malaria-free world is long, but it is an achievable goal.

(Dr. C. Aravinda is an academic and public health physician. The views expressed are personal. aravindaaiimsjr10@hotmail.com)

WHO scheme provides cancer medicines to children

SNAPSHOT

The World Health Organization has launched a new platform providing cost-free cancer medicines for thousands of children living in low-and middle-income countriesto improve survival rates.

The first medicines are being delivered to Mongolia and Uzbekistan, with further shipments planned for Ecuador, Jordan, Nepal, and Zambia as part of the pilot phase. The treatments are expected to reach around 5,000 children with cancer this yearacross at least 30 hospitals in those six nations.

"Countries in the pilot phase will receive an uninterrupted supply of quality-assured childhood cancer medicines at no cost," the UN health agency said in a statement. The WHO said that childhood cancer survival rates in low- and middle-income countries were often below 30%, compared with around 80% in high-income countries.

-AFP

Newborns at Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital on New Year's Day 2025, in Mumbai.PTI

Pollution could 'prolong pregnancy'

Exposure to air pollution and extreme temperatures during pregnancy could increase the risk of a delay in delivery, according to an analysis of nearly four lakh births in Australia. A prolonged pregnancy can have serious consequences for both the mother and child, with a need for medical interventions. It can also increase the risk of stillbirth, birth complications, and behavioural problems. While rising heat driven by climate change has been linked with premature births, researchers from Curtin University, Australia, said this is the first study to examine how climate exposure can affect a pregnant woman's health.

"We know that being 'born too soon' has well-documented health risks, but little attention has been given to the risks associated with being 'born too late,'" lead author Sylvester Dodzi Nyadanu, from Curtin University's School of Population Health, said. The findings were published in the journal *Urban Climate*.

-PTI

Singapore seniors on horse therapy

Singapore has started an initiative to expand its senior care programme using horse therapy as the city-state grapples with the challenges of a rapidly ageing population. 'Haydays with Horses' is a two-year programme to tap into the therapeutic power of miniature horses to help seniors improve their physical health, cognitive functions, and psychological well-being.

The nation has one of the region's most rapidly ageing populations, and officials have warned that the "silver tsunami" is a key long-term threat. Pensioners are able to interact with miniature horses in "active-ageing" centres across the city, grooming the equids, combing their manes, or just stroking the animals.

The sessions are backed bySingapore's state investment fund, Temasek, and are free for participants. Seniors are also able to pet and walk retired race or polo horses, retrained for equine therapy.

-AFP

A senior participant with a miniature horse in Singapore on February 11. AFP

The presence of a twin inside the body of the other twin may go undetected for years. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Foetus in fetu: a twin mystery

Deepa Hariharan

In January 2025, doctors at the Buldhana District Women's Hospital in Maharashtra detected a rare case of "foetus in fetu" in a pregnant woman. This condition occurs when a malformed foetus develops inside another foetus. The rare congenital anomaly was detected during a regular sonographic assessment of a 32-year-old pregnant woman.

'Foetus in fetu' is a foetus-like mass that develops within the body of the other foetus in a monozygotic twin pregnancy. Basically, one twin is very underdeveloped and enwrapped inside the body of the other twin, so much so that the pregnancy is considered a singleton pregnancy. The presence of a twin inside the body of the other twin may go undetected for years. In this case, the condition was discovered during a routine pregnancy scan itself. The woman delivered the baby by a C-section. Doctors performed a surgery on the newborn to remove the undeveloped foetus wrapped in the infant's body. Both the mother and baby recovered well. Also known as cryptodidymus, this is a rare congenital disorder that affects about one in 500,000 births. Less than 200 cases have been reported worldwide, with about 10 to 15 cases in India.

The exact cause is not fully understood, but it's believed to result from an anomaly during the development of monozygotic or identical twins. About 10 to 15 days after conception of monozygotic twins, the cell mass of the embryo may be split unevenly, due to which one twin is smaller and incompletely formed with the other twin fully developed. The smaller twin gets trapped within the larger twin. The trapped twin is considered "parasitic," it draws its blood supply and nutrients from the other "host" twin. The trapped or "parasitic twin" has some morphologic features of a normal foetus such as an umbilical cord-like structure, a bag of membranes surrounding it, and blood vessel connections to the host twin. It may have a vertebral column, limbs, and a few organs but lacks vital organs like the brain, heart. or gut. Despite having "living tissue," the parasitic twin has no prospects of independent existence outside the host twin.

After conception the cell mass of the embryo may split unevenly, due to which one twin is smaller and incompletely formed. The smaller twin gets trapped within the larger twin

The presence of the parasitic twin affects the health of the host twin, who has to "feed" the former from the nutrients received over a single umbilical cord. In addition, enlargement of the trapped parasitic twin may compress vital organs in the host.

Generally, the parasitic twin is found in the abdomen. Rarely, it may be found in other places like the brain or chest. Most of the cases reported have presented in childhood as abdominal mass causing gut obstruction and swelling. X-rays and CT scans have confirmed the presence of foetal structures like digits, limbs, spine, etc. Treatment is surgical excision of the mass – parasitic twin – with special attention being given to the foetus' blood supply.

Foetus in fetu is considered a mystery of twinning for a number of reasons: the exact mechanism of how one twin becomes enclosed within the other is not fully understood. This needs greater insight into early embryologic processes. While some cases show well-defined body structures, others may only present as a mass with poorly developed organs, making diagnosis challenging. The age of presentation is variable, with some cases diagnosed only when the host twin is 40.

(Dr. Deepa Hariharan is a senior neonatologist. nicu_deepa@yahoo.com)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

FRIDAY
February 14, 2025

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DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

Shri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Govt. of Karnataka

BENEFITS OFFERED UNDER

KARNATAKA TOURISM POLICY 2024-29

Shri. D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri. H. K. Patil
Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice,
Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs,
Legislation and Tourism
Government of Karnataka

"Karnataka is a state that offers a world of opportunities. It has become an ideal destination for investment in the tourism sector. The state government has announced a new tourism policy that facilitates investments by creating a conducive environment. This new policy has created numerous opportunities for investors in the tourism industry."

- Shri. H. K. Patil
Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism
Government of Karnataka

Financial Assistance for Projects

- Capital Investment Subsidy up to INR 10 Crore
- Interest Subsidy up to INR 25 Lakh
- Exemption on Stamp Duty & Registration Charges
- Exemption / Reimbursement of Motor Vehicle Tax
- Reimbursement of Land Conversion Fee
- Concessions for Homestays and Agri Tourism

Investment Opportunities

- 90+ Beaches identified under Karnataka CZMP; 40+ Coastal stretches identified for investment
- 650 Acres of Land Banks for PPP Investment
- Upcoming Hotel & Resort Projects
- Ropeways at II Locations
- Namma Smaraka (Adopt-a-Monument) Scheme
- 44 Types of Eligible Tourism Projects

Investor Support Mechanisms

- Tourism Investment Facilitation Cell
- Coastal Tourism Development Board
- Tourism Skill Development Committee
- PPP Cell of Department of Tourism

Shri. Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka with Shri. H. K. Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism, Govt. of Karnataka at a public event.

Industry Status for Tourism

- Power, Water, and Property Tax at Industrial Rates
- Single Window Facilitation for Eligible Projects
- Land Acquisition through KIADB
- Access to financing and other benefits

CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUBSIDY OFFERED UNDER KARNATAKA TOURISM POLICY 2024-29

CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUBSIDY FOR TOURISM

Tourism project	Minimum Investment (EPC) for Project (INR)	% Subsidy against EPC	Maximum Ceiling Amount Of Capital Investment Subsidy
Adventure Tourism project	INR 25 Lakh	25 %	INR 2 Crore
Agri Tourism Project	INR 10 Lakh	25 %	INR 50 Lakh
Caravan Park Project	INR 25 Lakh	25 %	INR 2 Crore
Caravan Tourism Project	INR 25 Lakh	25 %	INR 1 Crore
Convention Centre	INR 50 Crore	15 %	INR 10 Crore
Cruise Tourism project	INR 25 Lakh	25 %	INR 1 Crore
Hotel project - Budget	INR 5 Crore	15 %	INR 2 Crore
Hotel Project - Premium	INR 10 Crore	15 %	INR 5 Crore
Houseboat Project	INR 1 Crore	25 %	INR 2 Crore
MICE Venue	INR 50 Crore	15 %	INR 10 Crore
Wayside Amenities	INR 2 Crore	25 %	INR 2 Crore
Wellness Centre	INR 2 Crore	25 %	INR 2 Crore

ADDITIONAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUBSIDY FOR SPECIAL CATEGORIES

Criteria for Additional Subsidy	Additional Percentage Subsidy against EPC
Tourism projects undertaken by women, SC, ST and differently abled entrepreneurs	5 %
Budget/Premium Hotel projects undertaken in Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka region	5 %

Scan the QR Code for more information

Karnataka Tourism Policy 2024-29

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RAJASTHAN TOPPER — Arnav Singh, 6-Year Classroom Course
RAJASTHAN TOPPER — Om Prakash Behera, 3-Year Classroom Course
RAJASTHAN TOPPER — Saksham Jindal, 3-Year Classroom Course
DELHI (NCT) TOPPER — Harsh Jha, Online Test Series

Bihar Topper — 99.994%ile — Panini, 2-year Classroom Course
Chhattisgarh Topper — 99.996%ile — Shourya Agrawal, 2-year Classroom Course
Himachal Pradesh Topper — 99.985%ile — Dherya Sharma, 5-year Classroom Course
Jharkhand Topper — 99.996%ile — Abhimanyu Tibrewal, 2-year Classroom Course
Odisha Topper — 99.989%ile — Nabaneet Priyadarshi, 5-year Classroom Course
Assam Topper — 99.969%ile — Kanishka Chakraborty, 2-year Classroom Course
Puducherry Topper — 99.867%ile — E Kumaran, 2-year Classroom Course
Meghalaya Topper — 99.435%ile — Nistha Gautam, 2-year Classroom Course
Manipur Topper — 98.699%ile — Loyanganba L., 1-year Classroom Course

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- 99.990%ile — Chirag Singh, 2-Year Live Course
- 99.979%ile — Arka Banerjee, 1-Year Live Course
- 99.964%ile — Ahmad Shayan, 2-Year Live Course
- 99.933%ile — Aditya Mishra, 1-Year Live Course
- 99.898%ile — Veeram N. Shah, 1-Year Live Course

ALLEN BENGALURU CHAMPIONS

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- 99.99%ile — Shiv Velnad, 3-year Classroom Course
- 99.98%ile — Raghav Jaggi, 6-year Classroom Course (100%ile in Physics)
- 99.98%ile — Rishabh Pandey, 4-year Classroom Course (100%ile in Chemistry)
- 99.98%ile — Aryan Kurkure, 2-year Classroom Course
- 99.97%ile — Ashwin K, 4-year Classroom Course (100%ile in Physics)
- 99.97%ile — Saathvik S Sundar, 2-year Classroom Course
- 99.96%ile — Abhinav Rajeev, 5-year Classroom Course (100%ile in Physics)
- 96.96%ile — Rohan Bohra, 3-year Classroom Course
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- 99.96%ile — Mohammad Samar A, 2-year Classroom Course
- 99.96%ile — Saikrish Kailash, 2-year Classroom Course
- 99.96%ile — Siddharth Gunturi, 2-year Classroom Course
- 99.95%ile — Jinesh Gandhi, 2-year Classroom Course (100%ile in Physics)
- 99.95%ile — Vedant N, 5-year Classroom Course
- 99.95%ile — Rohan Rajeev B, 7-year Classroom Course

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Budget presented by Municipal Corporation of Delhi for FY26

17,000 crore. On Thursday, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi presented a budget for the next financial year, setting aside ₹4,907.11 crore for sanitation. According to the proposal, education has been allocated ₹1,693.73 crore. PTI

Number of job-seekers shortlisted through job fairs since 2020

18.4 in lakh. Over 42,000 job fairs have been organised since 2019-20 and lakhs of job-seekers have been shortlisted, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said. In the Budget, the Centre announced a package of five schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, and skilling. PTI

Amount Adani group was to invest in Sri Lankan power project

1 in $ billion. Adani Green Energy, the renewable arm of Gautam Adani's conglomerate, has withdrawn from two proposed wind power projects in Sri Lanka, following the island nation's new government deciding to renegotiate tariffs. The company was to invest in generating electricity from wind at two projects. PTI

Number of corruption complaints received by Lokpal: Centre

2,426 These complaints have been filed by Lokpal, an anti-corruption body, by assigning a regular complaint number under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, which was brought into force from 2014, the Rajya Sabha was informed. PTI

Government officials suspended by the Liberian president

457 Liberian President Joseph Boakai, who has pledged to fight corruption, suspended government-appointed officials for failing to declare their assets. The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission identified these officials. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is happening in the DRC?

Why did the M23 militia capture the city of Goma which lies in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo? Does Rwanda have any stake in the rebel group's actions in the DRC? Did the conflict in the region start with the Rwandan genocide? Why is Goma coveted by rebel groups and governments?

EXPLAINER

Adithya Narayan

The story so far:

The crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is back in the spotlight after the M23 militia, backed by eastern neighbour Rwanda, captured the mineral-rich city of Goma, which lies on the border between the two countries. UN estimates suggest that the fighting, which began in January, has taken the lives of more than 2,900 people, displaced close to 7,00,000 and injured many more. Since then, clashes have spread to the south of the border with the rebels eyeing Bukavu, the capital of the South Kivu province – another resource-rich region that is situated in the east of the DRC.

A city under siege
The M23 militia, backed by eastern neighbour Rwanda, captured the mineral-rich city of Goma, which lies on the border between Rwanda and the DRC. The region has been beset with conflict between the Hutus and Tutsis since colonial times
THE M23 MILITIA
One of about 100 armed factions vying for a foothold in mineral-rich eastern DRC
Rwandan-backed group which consists primarily of Tutsis who failed to integrate into the Congolese army
Led major insurgency against the DRC government in 2012, took up arms again in 2022. The group is estimated to have 6,500 fighters
DEM. REP. OF CONGO
Kinshasa
Goma
500km
310 miles
Jan 27-28, Goma: While M23 rebels claim control of the city, they are reportedly facing resistance from army and pro-government militias
Mount Nyiragongo
Direction of M23 advance
Sake
DEM. REP. OF CONGO
5km
3 miles
Keshero
Munigi
RWANDA
GOMA
UN experts estimate up to 4,000 Rwandan forces are fighting alongside M23
Bulenga
Gisenyi
Goma International Airport
"Great Barrier" border crossing
LAKE KIVU
Port
Latest rebel advance has forced thousands to flee Goma. The city of two million people is a vital humanitarian aid hub for the region
The UN and other global powers fear that the conflict could spiral into a regional war similar to those of 1996-1997 and 1998-2003
Sources: Associated Press, Institute for the Study of War, Reuters
© GRAPHIC NEWS

Effects of war: A displaced woman walks back to her home village, in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, on February 12. GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

DRC President Felix Tshisekedi called the capture of Goma "an act of war". Paul Kagambe, while never admitting to complicity in the M23's actions, has issued remarks time and again, that hint at the M23's legitimacy.

Imperialist powers such as Germany and Belgium ruled over Rwanda through a Tutsi monarchy in which local administrative roles were occupied by members of the Tutsi minority, ensuring better prospects for the group. This did not sit well with the Hutus who eventually called for a 'revolution' in 1959.

In April 1994, when an aircraft carrying Rwandan President Juvenal Habriyamana and his Burundi counterpart Cyprien Ntarynira — two Hutus — was shot down, the Rwandan military and the Hutu Interahamwe militia went on a rampage, murdering almost 8,000 people per day.

What is the history of the region?

While the root cause of the crisis is generally attributed to the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the region has been beset with conflict between the Hutus and Tutsis since colonial times; so much so that some 1,50,000 Tutsis had migrated to neighbouring countries even before Rwanda's independence from Belgium in 1962. Imperialist powers such as Germany and Belgium ruled over Rwanda through a Tutsi monarchy in which local administrative roles were occupied by members of the Tutsis, who were a minority there, ensuring better prospects for the group. This did not sit well with the Hutus who eventually called for a 'revolution' in 1959, costing the lives of some 20,000 Tutsis. Consequently, King Kigeli V fled, and a Hutu regime came to power. Further solidifying the group's grip on power were the elections of 1960 conducted by Belgian officials, in which Hutus emerged victorious in local communes. Two years later, the country proclaimed independence and got its first President in Grégoire Kayibanda.

What is the Rwandan genocide?

With Hutus at the helm, there was systematic repression of the Tutsis. This led to the formation of the Tutsi rebel group, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which launched a civil war in 1990.

The war reached its inflection point in April 1994, when an aircraft carrying Rwandan President Juvenal Habriyamana and his Burundi counterpart Cyprien Ntarynira – two Hutus – was shot down. Blaming the RPF for the attack, the Rwandan military and the Hutu Interahamwe militia went on a rampage, murdering almost 8,000 people per day. By the time the campaign ended 100 days later, some 8,00,000 Tutsis and a moderate number of Hutus had been killed. The genocide ended only after an RPF reprisal emerged victorious in July 1994. Paul Kagambe, one of the leaders of the uprising, was elected President of Rwanda in 2000 and has occupied the post ever since.

What was the aftermath of the genocide?

As a result of the killings, some two million Hutus, including the perpetrators, crossed into the eastern region of the DRC, then called Zaire. Today, the region comprises more than 120 armed groups such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), claiming to fight for the Hutus, and the M23, which claims to represent the interests of the Tutsis.

After the genocide, Rwandan troops invaded Congo, first in 1996 and then in 1998 – dubbed Africa's World Wars. The war of 1996, called the First Congo War, resulted in the country being renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo and witnessed the overthrow of longtime ruler Mobutu Sese Seko. The next battle, known as the Second Congo War, came about as President Laurent-Désiré Kabila turned against allies Rwanda and Uganda. The fighting eventually ballooned into one of the biggest battles on the continent after nine countries and 25 armed groups joined in. It ended only in 2003 after having killed five million from battle, disease and starvation.

From then on, the DRC has been marked by disarray while Rwanda, under Mr. Kagame, has been identified as a force of stability in Africa. With ample help from Western nations, the President lifted the country out of poverty. Yet, Mr. Kagame's government has been accused of helping the M23 rebels.

Who are the M23 rebels?

Formed in 2012, the M23 stands for Mouvement du 23 Mars – an abortive agreement signed on March 23, 2009, between the DRC government and the Tutsi-led National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP). According to the pact, the CNDP, which fought the government forces between 2006 and 2009, was to take the form of a political party and its fighters were to be absorbed into the DRC Army.

These soldiers broke off from the Congolese Army and came together to form the M23. It is led by Sultani Makenga and is based in the North Kivu province. Claiming to protect Tutsis, the group managed to capture Goma for the first time in 2012. Following a series of setbacks at the hands of the Congolese Army and UN forces, the group retreated after it was assured the protection of the Tusis. A decade later, it resurfaced in 2022 citing failure to meet the promises. The group stands accused of war crimes by the UN.

Is the conflict only about ethnic tensions?

Ethnic strife forms only one part of the story. The mineral-rich regions in the DRC's east, coveted by nations and armed groups alike, form the other part. The DRC is home to Coltan, the ore from which Tantalum is produced.

This blue-grey metal is used in smartphones and other electronic devices for it can hold a high charge over a range of temperatures, making it conducive for the manufacturing of capacitors that store energy.

While Coltan is also mined in Brazil, Nigeria, and Rwanda, almost 40% of the global supply comes from the DRC.

And the capture of Goma, a key trading and transport hub, will help M23 to a great degree.

How have regional players responded to the crisis?

DRC President Felix Tshisekedi called the capture of Goma "an act of war". The winner of the 2023 election, which has been decried by activists, the loss of Goma leaves him on shaky ground.

Mr. Kagambe, while never admitting to complicity in the M23's actions, has issued remarks time and again, that hint at the M23's legitimacy. The Rwandan leader wants the militant group to be made part of discussions.

The Tutsi-led country's actions are in the interest of the group living across the border and to prevent the spillover of a civil war, he says.

Neighbouring Burundi, a Hutu-majority country that shares hostile relations with Rwanda, has warned the Kagambe administration about the M23's advance further south. "If Rwanda continues to make conquests," he wrote, "I know that war will even arrive in Burundi... One day he [Kagame] wants to come to Burundi – we're not going to accept that. The war will spread," President Evariste Ndayishimiye said.

Uganda is toeing a middle line by helping the Congolese troops hunt down militants with Ugandan origins tied to the Islamic State. It also allows the M23 to use its territory as a base, reports the UN.

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LEGAL AND RECOVERY DEPARTMENT
Demand Notice

1. M/s Sri Sai Enterprises, Represented by its Partners a. Mr. Srisail, b. Mr.Yamegowda GH, c. Mr. Palaniswamy Addressed at: 4th Floor, Above Balaji Showroom, D.No.16, Opposite Allied Blenders and Distillers, Nagasandra, Bengaluru-560073

2. Mr. Srisail No.584/12, Yeshwanthpur K N Extension, 7th Main, 6th Cross, Bengaluru-560022.

3. Mr. Yamegowda G H No.51, Magadi Main Road, S P G Colony, Thyagaraj Co-Operative Bank Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-562130.

The credit facilities under **PSTL A/c No.1127001800408901 dtd 30.09.2021 for Rs.150.00 lakh and PSTL A/c No.1127001800409001 dated 30.09.2021 for Rs.38.00 lakh availed by you No.1] M/s Sri Sai Enterprises represented by its partners, Mr. Srisail, Mr.Yamegowda G H , Mr. Palaniswamy is the Borrower ; you No.2] Mr. Srisail and you No.3] Mr. Yamegowda G H and No.4] Mr. Palaniswamy** are the guarantors at our **Bengaluru-Mahalakshmipura Branch.** The above mentioned loan accounts have been classified as Non - Performing Asset on **30.05.2024** with effect from **30.09.2021** and that action under SARFAESI Act has been initiated by issuing a detailed Demand Notice under Section 13(2)&(3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by the Authorised officer of the Bank on **03.12.2024** to the parties concerned. The said Demand Notice sent by speed post with acknowledgement to **you No.1) M/s Sri Sai Enterprises represented by its partners, Mr. Srisail, Mr.Yamegowda G H , Mr. Palaniswamy, you No.2) Mr. Srisail and you No.3) Mr. Yamegowda G H** has been returned undelivered. Hence, we have published the contents of the Demand Notice by way of this Notice by observing the procedures laid down in the SARFAESI Act 2002. The total aggregate balance of **Rs.2,13,38,924.96 (Rupees Two Crore Thirteen Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Four And Paisa Ninety Six Only)** with future interest at the rate mentioned herein below. You are called upon to pay the same within 60 days from the date of this paper publication.

Nature & Account No.	Balance Outstanding (Rs.)	Rate of Interest (compounded monthly)	Interest Calculated upto	Interest to be added from
PSTL A/c No. 11270018 00408901	Rs. 1,65,81,786.77	15.55%	29.11.2024	30.11.2024
PSTL A/c No.112700 1800409001	Rs. 47,57,138.19	15.55%	29.11.2024	30.11.2024
Total	Rs. 2,13,38,924.96			

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Please note that I, the Authorised Officer of the secured creditor Bank intend to enforce the aforesaid security in the event of failure to discharge your liabilities in full on or before the expiry of 60 days from the date of this publication.

Further, your attention is drawn to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, wherein the time for redemption of mortgage is available only up to the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting tenders.

Place : Mangaluru
Date : 13.02.2025

Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
For Karnataka Bank Ltd.,

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: B-SG-Proj-DD-BAW-HAS
Date: 07.02.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of Work	Approx.Value
Provision of Double Distant Signal to enhance speed to 130 KMPH in Chikka Banavara-Nelamangala - Hassan section Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 3,74,43,371.48/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 24.02.2025

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/Project/Bengaluru

PUB/783/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Notice for expression of Interest for engagement of consultant towards market study

The undersigned,on behalf of the President of India, invites Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Engagement of consultant towards market study over South Western Railway.	NA

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 17.00 hrs on 28.02.2025

For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Chief Commercial Manager /Passenger Services, Hubballi

PUB/778/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

IN THE COURT OF XIX ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU

P & SC No. 66 / 2025

BETWEEN : **1. Sri S. Mohan @ Mohan Swaminathan**, S/o. Late V.S. Swaminathan (Father) And Late Kamakoti (Mother) Aged about 68 years, Presently residing at: No.3054, Avondale Ave, Windsor, Ontario Canada, N9E1X3

2. Smt. ChitraSudarshan, W/o T S. Sudarshan D/o Late V.S. Swaminathan (father) And Late Kamakoti (Mother) Aged about 62 years, Presently residing at: No.2056, Madrillon Road Vienna, Varginia USA-22182.

Both are Native of No. 386, 4th D Main Cross, WCR, 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore-560 086. ...PETITIONERS

AND: NIL ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named petitioner has filed a petition under Section 278 of Indian Succession Act, 1925 seeking issue of Letter of Administration in respect of the Schedule Property and to declare them as surviving legal heirs of the deceased V.S. Swaminathan, died on 26.11.2014 and deceased S.Kamakoti died on 23.11.2022 who are father and mother of the petitioners herein.

Therefore, any person having any objection/s for issue of a Letter of Administration in respect of the Schedule Property and to declare them as surviving legal heirs and any person having interest, may cause the same by appearing before Court of the Hon'ble XIX Addl. City Civil And Sessions Judge, Bengaluru (CCH-18) at Bengaluru in person or through his/her advocate **on the 19th day of March, 2025 at 11.00 AM.** Failing which, the matter will be heard and disposed off in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.386, formed by the then CITB, now coming under BDA situated in West of Chord Road, II Stage Extension, Bengaluru Measuring East to West 60 ft.. North to South 40 ft., in all measuring 2400 sq.ft., bounded on the:

East by : 4th 'C' Main Road, West by : Site No.391, North by : Site No.385, South by : Site No.387.

Given under my hand, seal on this the 11th day of February 2025.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioner
Sri Narendra Prakash .R, Advocate,
FALCON LEGAL, No.273, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru-560 086.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा।
Email Id:rdsdjmt@gmail.com

अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा ई0–आमंत्रण संख्या–RDD/SD/JAMTARA/RE/12/2024-25

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :–

ग्रुप नं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मुल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	जामताड़ा जिला अन्तर्गत प्रखण्ड नाला में आगैया और बांकाशिमल के बीच जोरिया पर पुल निर्माण।	3,16,37,300.00	6,33,000.00	10,000.00	18 माह

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– दिनांक–14.02.2025
3. ई0–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय :– दिनांक–14.02.2025 से दिनांक–27.02.2025 (अपराह्न 5:00 बजे)
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा की स्वीकार्य होगी।
5. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो सारी जबावदेही संबंधित निविदादाता की होगी।
6. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :– e-Procurement Cell, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा।
7. निविदा खुलने की तिथि एवं समय :– दिनांक–01.03.2025 (अपराह्न 2:00 बजे)
8. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा।
9. ई0–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष संख्या :– 9973957543
10. अधोहस्ताक्षरी/सक्षम पदाधिकारी को किसी भी निविदा को बिना कारण बताये रद्द करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रहेंगा तथा निविदादाता को कारण पृच्छा का अधिकार मान्य नहीं होगा।
11. B.O.Q की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

ह0/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा।

PR 346338 (Rural Development) 24-25 (D)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
CENTRAL FARM MACHINERY TRAINING & TESTING INSTITUTE
(AN ISO-9001:2015 CERTIFIED INSTITUTE)
Tractor Nagar, P.O., Budni (M.P.) 466445
Website : http://www.fmttibudni.gov.in, Email : fmti-mp@nic.in, Tel. : 07564-299003
GSTIN : 23AAAGC0890H1ZS

F.No. : 9-18011/1/2024-Inst. (E-145046) **Date : 11.02.2025**

Advertisement No. CFMTTI/02/2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

To

GET EMPANELLED AS "SOFTWARE EVALUATOR FOR TESTING & CERTIFICATION OF UAS (DRONES) ON CONTRACT/HIRE BASIS

Applications are invited from eligible candidates fulfilling the following minimum competency criteria to get empanelled as evaluators for testing and certification of drones as per the **CSUAS (Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems) Scheme** of Quality Council of India (QCI), New Delhi :-

Sl. No.	No of Evaluators/ Type of Evaluator	Minimum Academic Qualification	Minimum Work Experience	Minimum Trainings Undergone	Minimum Evaluation Experience	Age
1.	01 (ONE)/ Software Evaluator	B. Tech/B.E. in Software Engineering, Computer Science, Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence & from a recognized University/ Institute	At least 3 years of full-time post qualification experience in Software & IT System Testing work experience in one or more of the following: Telecom Software/ Protocol, Embedded Systems, Mobile Device and Mobile Applications, IoT Block chain, Artificial Intelligence, UAS Software Applications or IT system or Software Product Test & Evaluation as per regulatory framework/guidelines	Minimum 3 years "On-Job-Training (OJT)" in developing software/ firmware related to UAS or automotive or IoT products or other aviation industry products under the supervision of a qualified personnel with 10 years of experience in the Information Technology (IT) field	Minimum 2 years of IT work experience related to software.	Less than 60 years

Complete data about eligibility, terms & conditions are available on the official website: **www.fmttibudni.gov.in.** All the interested candidates fulfilling the above competency criteria may submit their Resume along with self-attested copies of all the supporting document in respect of Qualification, Training and Experience and Aadhar Card & PAN Card to the official E-mail Id : **fmti-mp@nic.in** of **The Director, Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute, Budni, Madhya Pradesh - 466445 by 15.03.2025.**

M.P. Madhyam/118768/2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of President of India, invite E-Tenders for the following works

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. BE-TLAC-PC-CUMMINS-2025 dated. 06.02.2025

Sl	Description of work	Approx. Value	Period of Completion
1	Comprehensive Maintenance, Escorting and operation of Power car in EOG/HOG mode of Bengaluru division fitted with DA sets of Cummins make, for a period of three years.	Rs. 21,56,19,835.53	36 Months

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. BE-TLAC-PC-GREAVES-2025 dated. 06.02.2025

1	Comprehensive Maintenance, Escorting and operation of Power car in EOG/HOG mode of Bengaluru division fitted with DA sets of Greaves make,for a period of three years.	Rs. 11,78,69,018.37	36 Months

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. BE-TLAC-PC-KOEL-2025 dated. 06.02.2025

1	Comprehensive Maintenance, Escorting and operation of Power car in EOG /HOG mode of Bengaluru division fitted with DA sets of Kirloskar (KOEL) make,for a period of three years.	Rs. 3,49,23,239.14	36 Months

Last date of submission of bid: **Upto 15.30 hrs on 28.02.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Bengaluru

PUB/780/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

JHARKHAND SKILL DEVELOPMENT MISSION SOCIETY
(An autonomous institution under Dept. of Labour, Employment, Training &Skill Development)
2nd Floor, Labour Hygiene Building,
Behind Shram Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002
Email ID - skilljharkhand@gmail.com
Website- http://jsdm.jharkhand.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Request for Proposal (RFP)- Establishing of Foreign Language Learning Centre to Facilitate the International Placement

The Jharkhand Skill Development Mission Society (JSDMS) was incorporated as a society in 2013 for the development of the skill training initiatives in the state of Jharkhand invites technical & financial proposals by e-tendering from reputed firms to **Request for Proposal (RFP) Establishing of Foreign Language Learning Centre to Facilitate the International Placement** as detailed in the RFP document.

The document can be downloaded from the website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. Response to this tender shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of this document with full understanding of its implications. This section provides general information about the Issuer, important dates and addresses.

SCHEDULE FOR INVITATION OF RFP

SN	Reference Description	Description
1.	RFP Number	**JSDM/26/2025**
2.	Date of publishing of RFP	**11.02.2025**
3.	RFP Title	**Establishing of Foreign Language Learning Centre to Facilitate the International Placement**
4.	Availability of RFP document	Available on government e-portal: jharkhandtenders.gov.in
5.	Method of selection	QCBS
6.	Validity of Proposal	6 Months
7.	Cost of Tender Document	10,000/- INR
8.	EMD	1,00,000/- INR
9.	Language of the proposal	English
10.	Last date for receiving Pre-Bid queries*	**22.02.2025**
11.	Pre-Bid Meeting	**25.02.2025**
12.	Publishing of responses to Pre-Bid Queries	**28.02.2025**
13.	Proposal submission Last Date	**15.03.2025**
14.	Late Proposal submission	Late Proposal i.e., proposal received after the specified date and time of receipt will not be considered.
15.	Date, Time and venue for opening of proposal of all participants	**17.03.2025, 01.00 pm at The office of Mission Director-cum-CEO, JSDMS**
16.	Date of Presentation of Service Providers	**Will be communicated to Technically Qualified Bidders**

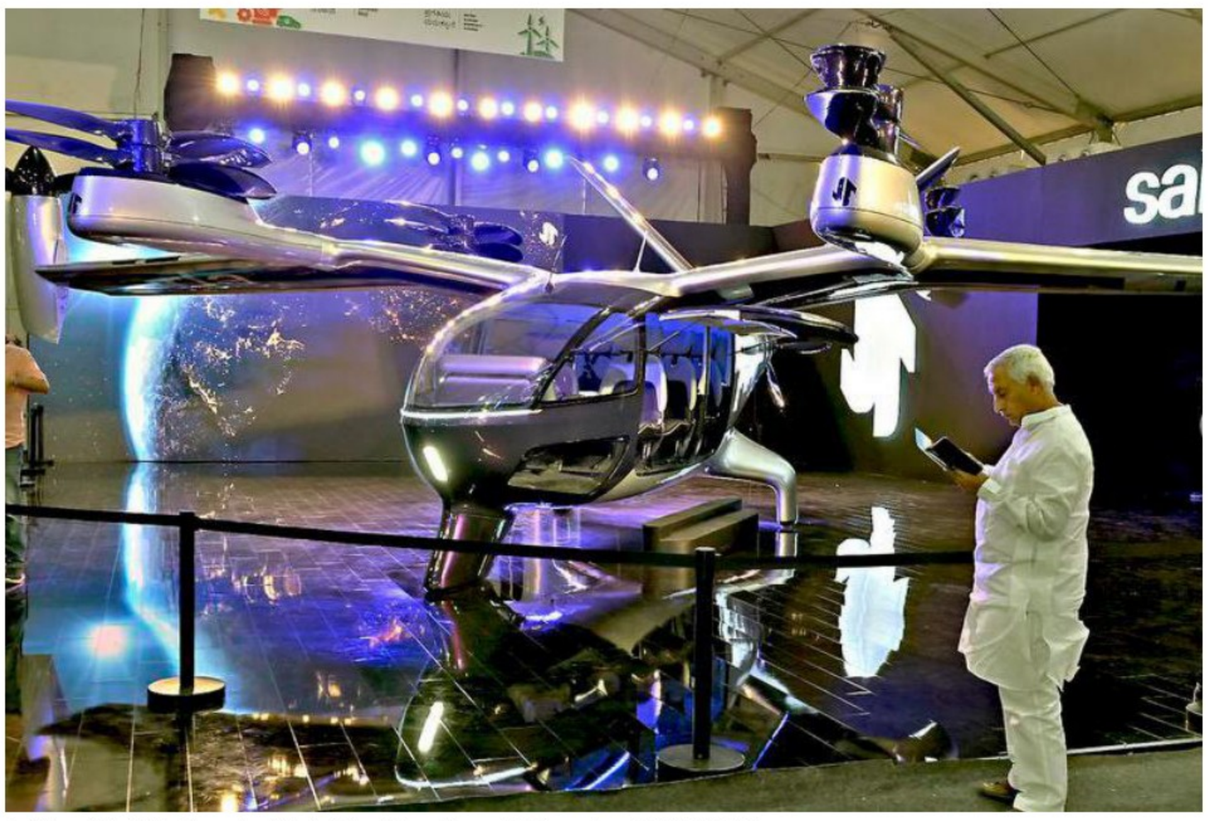
Sd/-s
Mission Director Cum CEO
Jharkhand Skill Development Mission Society

PR 346434 Labour Employment and Traning(24-25).D

Global firms push for scaling up sourcing from India in aerospace

At the four-day Global Investors' Meet, Director-General of Aerospace India Association says that despite a quantum growth in the global aviation market, the country's current aerospace exports are worth as little as $2 billion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU


A visitor at the Global Investors' Meet at the Palace Grounds in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Top global aerospace and defence companies that are currently participating at the four-day Global Investors' Meet: Invest Karnataka 2025, expressed their keenness to scale up their product, equipment, and services sourcing from Karnataka and India.

For instance, senior officials of Airbus, Rolls Royce, Safran, a French multinational aerospace, defence and security corporation headquartered in Paris, and U.K.-based Collins Aerospace, said that they were looking to significantly scale up their sourcing from India.

According to the Aerospace India Association, despite a quantum growth in the global aviation market, India's current aerospace exports are worth as little as $2 billion, indicating huge growth potential for the sector in the near to long term future.

Speaking at a panel discussion on "India at the Core: Shaping the Future of Global A&D Sourcing" here, the companies sounded bullish on India's prospects in the global aerospace and defence supply chain.

Michel Narchi, Head of International Operations, Airbus, said the level of maturity India has gained in this sector in the past few years was significant. He further said Airbus was keen to capitalise on the existing partnership it has with Karnataka/India.

Growth in five years

"If I compare where we were five years back, where we have reached today on the supply chain part, this partnership has doubled the volume in the past five years. Today, we can say that India is contributing more than a billion Euros in the overall supply chain of Airbus," Mr. Narchi said.

Jean-Noel Mahieu, EVP Operations, Safran Electronics and Defence, also spoke about strengthening partnership with India. Huw Morgan, Senior Vice-President, Aerospace Procurement, Rolls Royce, said: "We are looking to double our sourcing in region over the next five years," Mr. Morgan. Savyasachi Srinivas, Vice-President, Engineering, at Collins Aerospace, said Collins did about $500 million of exports from India annually and he anticipated it to significantly increase over the next few years.

According to Srinivasan Dwarakanath, Director General, Aerospace India Association, and former CEO & MD of Airbus India, both Boeing and Airbus have in their global market forecast stated that over the next 20 years, there is a need for over 42,000 aircraft or new planes. India has ordered a significant number of aircraft which was also going to result in an uptick in the supply chain, he said.

In 2023, the value of the global aerospace supply chain was about $180 billion and by 2033 it will go up to $250 billion. In 2023, India ordered the maximum number of aircraft. Despite this, Indian aerospace supply chain currently contributes only about one per cent of the global supply chain. "This is disproportionately below the value of the import of the aircraft and components. Aerospace exports annually from India is as little as $2 billion," he pointed out.

AI innovators building frugal India-specific solutions, say experts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian entrepreneurs are showing "a lot of guts" building solutions in several areas and should be able to come up with frugal ways to build energy-efficient and cost-effective systems, said Manish Gupta, senior director at Google DeepMind.

He was responding to a question at the Invest Karnataka 2025 on when India would see its equivalent of DeepSeek.

'Can do' spirit

"We are building new rockets, launching new kinds of hyperspectral imaging satellites, and so on. We are beginning to see entrepreneurs have the 'can-do' spirit and we'll see much more of that in AI," he said.

He also noted that while today's large language models like ChatGPT and DeepSeek are a great step forward, they may not represent the final solution to building the "ultimate AGI".

AGI refers to "artificial general intelligence" where hypothetically the machine possesses intellectual abilities similar to humans.

"If we think about just energy consumption, look at the number of nuclear reactors to power these systems compared with the human brain. The human brain does it at about 20 watts. There's got to be better ways of building these models. There ought to be more innovation in India in better ways of building," he said while pointing out that India is already amongst the leaders in terms of AI-ready workforce.

Pointing out that India is already amongst the leaders in terms of AI-ready workforce, Mr. Gupta said that innovators in the country should be able to come up with frugal ways to build energy-efficient and cost-effective systems.

Avinash Joshi, chief executive-India at NTT Data, observed that frugal innovation is the way India is moving ahead.

"When I look at the market space today and our own enterprises and their adoption of AI, I think it has reached a stage where they really want to do things that cater to real use cases... In many of the use cases that we see, whether it is natural language processing, energy efficiency, education, we find a lot of innovation where very India-specific utility is coming to play," he said.

Caleb Munigety, Head, Enterprise-AI at Bosch India, noted that it is also important to invest in fundamental research.

Volvo Group to invest ₹1,400 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister M.B. Patil at the signing of an MoU with Volvo Group in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Volvo Group, a global manufacturer of trucks, buses, construction equipment, and sustainable mobility solutions, has decided to scale up its operations in Karnataka with an additional investment of ₹1,400 crore.

In an event held at Chief Minister's residence here on Thursday, the company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Karnataka.

As per the agreement, the Swedish firm will pump in the addit0ional investment to set up its 4th International Manufacturing Hub at Hoskote. With this, Volvo's production capacity at its Hoskote facility would increase from 3,000 to 20,000 trucks and buses annually, catering to both Indian and international markets. The new facility was expected to create over 2,000 direct jobs.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, underscored the State's long-standing partnership with Volvo, which has thrived for around 30 years. He praised the company's role in bringing high-quality buses to the state, particularly in the luxury bus segment.

Volvo Group CEO Martin Lundstedt said the facility expansion will not only increase production capacity but also secure India's and Karnataka's place in the global supply chain.

'Healthcare providers not accepting digital health records because they do not want to be accountable'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Resistance to digitisation of patient health records by many healthcare providers is because they do not want to be accountable, said Indu Bhushan, former chairman of National Health Authority and former CEO of Ayushman Bharat.

Speaking at a panel discussion on "Future of Care: Revolutionising Healthcare Through Digital Innovation and Collaboration" at the Global Investors' Meet on Thursday, Dr. Bhushan cited an example of doctors who prescribe investigation tests and antibiotics unnecessarily. "They also do not want to be accountable, because, in response, there is no benefit. Instead, it increases their workload," he said.

'Difficult to audit'

"There are doctors who prescribe unnecessary antibiotics or unnecessary tests. They do not want to have it on record through digital means, because currently when you do it on paper, it is very difficult to audit that. But through digital health you can see that this doctor always prescribes antibiotics, irrespective of what kind of ailments the patient comes with. So they will be more accountable," he explained.

He said it also holds good with interoperability of health records. "Many hospitals do not want their patients to leave the hospital and go to another hospital. That is why they would like the patient records to be with them. I am not casting aspersions on all hospitals. But, this is the reality," said Dr. Bhushan, who was instrumental in rolling out the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDM) in the country.

Pointing out that technology use is inequitably distributed, Dr. Bhushan said there are some hospitals where digital technology is working very well. "They send reports on time. They link current reports to the previous ones. But again, there are others who are not doing this, or other patients who are not receiving the same service."

Insurance payers

"However, acceptability will increase in the next five years, similar to digital (UPI) payments. In the initial phases, there will be divergence. But once we have a critical mass, it will be the insurance payers who will insist that we should have digital records because it is easy to monitor. In all countries where digital health has taken root, it is largely because insurance companies and payers have insisted on this because they have a vested interest in ensuring that all the records are digital," he said.

Public health policies

Asserting that public health infrastructure and the public health policies will drive the digital adoption in the country, Ashutosh Raghuvanshi, MD of Fortis Healthcare, sought to know why the government has not made ABDM mandatory for all hospitals. ABDM aims to digitise healthcare delivery by building an ecosystem that rides on collaboration between the government and the private sector. However, it is optional.

Activists detained

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Eleven activists were detained by the police even as human rights and student groups were speaking to the press outside GIM on Thursday. Representatives from People's Union for Civil Liberties, All India Students Association, and Fridays For Future, Karnataka, were kept under preventive custody. Aishwarya Ravikumar of PUCL, said: "Activists were voicing concerns over the State government's collaboration with Israel at GIM."

'KWIN City set to revolutionise higher education with global partnerships'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KWIN City is the much-awaited educational and industrial hub between Dobbspet and Doddaballapur

KWIN City, the much-awaited educational and industrial hub between Dobbspet and Doddaballapur, is set to host world-class universities. The Karnataka government is making significant strides in this direction, with over 30 prestigious universities showing interest in setting up campuses in the city.

During the meeting at the Global Investors' Meet on Thursday, M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, shared that discussions have already been initiated with 20 top universities globally. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Sudhakar with Minister M.B. Patil in attendance.

Dr. Sudhakar, while addressing the gathering, emphasised the importance of a holistic education system that aligns with both industry needs and global trends. "The curriculum needs to evolve to suit industry requirements. As part of this initiative, we will be forming a joint committee of education experts and industry leaders to guide the way forward," he stated.

The State government has signed agreements with nine leading universities, including St. John's University and Liverpool University. Additionally, well-known institutions like the Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani and the World Horticultural Centre are also exploring opportunities in KWIN City.

Skill development

Sharanprakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, spoke about the State's commitment to enhancing skill development programmes across sectors. He highlighted that Karnataka already has 70 medical colleges and is focusing on bridging the gap between industry and academia to improve employment outcomes. "We are collaborating with industry leaders like Wipro, Infosys, and Bosch to ensure our students are prepared for global challenges," he said.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), South Zone, Jayanagar 2nd Block, BBMP, Bengaluru.

No. EE/ELE/SOUTH/TEND/12/2024-25 Date: 13.02.2025

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Corrigendum pertaining to Extension of Tender calendar of events & EMD Amount.

Ref: Tender Notification No. EE/ELE/SOUTH/TEND/12/2025-25, Date: 05.02.2025

With reference to this office tender notification cited at reference, due to Technical reasons, the **Calendar of Events and EMD amount are modified** as below.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 14.02.2025, 16.30 hrs. onwards. (2)** Last date for tender queries / clarifications: **19.02.2025 upto 16.00 hrs. (3)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting **: 20.02.2025 at 11.30 hrs. (4)** Last date for submission of tenders: **03.03.2025 by 16.00 hrs. (5)** Date of opening of Technical bids : **04.03.2025 at 16.30 hrs. (6)** Date of opening of Financial bids : **06.03.2025 at 11.00 hrs.**

THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATION SHALL BE ADOPTED IN EMD AMOUNT: EMD : Rs. 12.06 lakhs (Rs. 1.00 lakh shall be paid through online payment in KPP portal and remaining **Rs. 11.06 lakhs** shall be paid through Bank Guarantee.

All other conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele)
South Zone, BBMP

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
No.05, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No.9270 /A&A/RIGHTS/2023 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated: 13.02.2025

Request for Proposals (RFP) applications are invited from potential Consulting agencies to design Curriculum for the Life skills education for persons with disabilities and to support its implementation in Tamil Nadu through e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website - **www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender website-**tntenders.gov.in.**

Applications are requested to be uploaded through e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS / Commissioner for welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/ 585 /TENDER/2025 **Project Director – RIGHTS / Commissioner WDA**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ (ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಧಾರವಾಡ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು & ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ನಂ:ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀ&ನೈವಿ/ಧಾ/ಕಿ ಇಂ–1/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ/2024–25/2050
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13.02.2025

ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ವಿಷಯ : ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕುರಿತು

ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಉಲೇಖಿತ ಪತ್ರದಡಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರುಗಳ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ : Goods Indent No: RWSSD/2024-25/IND0196/Call-7, IND0205/Call-7, IND0204/Call-7, IND0203/Call-7.

ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ : **27.62** ಲಕ್ಷ, ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ **95.04** ಲಕ್ಷ

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ. (Calander of Events)

(1) ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರ್ಮಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಬಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **14.02.2025** ರಿಂದ **20.02.2025** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **21.02.2025** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16.30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ.

ಸದರಿ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂತಿಮ ಹೆಸರು, ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ, ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಮಾಡಿದವರು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/960/2024–25 ಧಾರವಾಡ.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

T M Ethirajan (84), Retired Foreman (Comp News), The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 13 - February - 2025. Address: 1/342A, Kesavavinayakam Street, Masilamani Nagar, Aziz Nagar, Madhavaram Milk Dairy, Chennai-600060 Contact No: 95000 69699.

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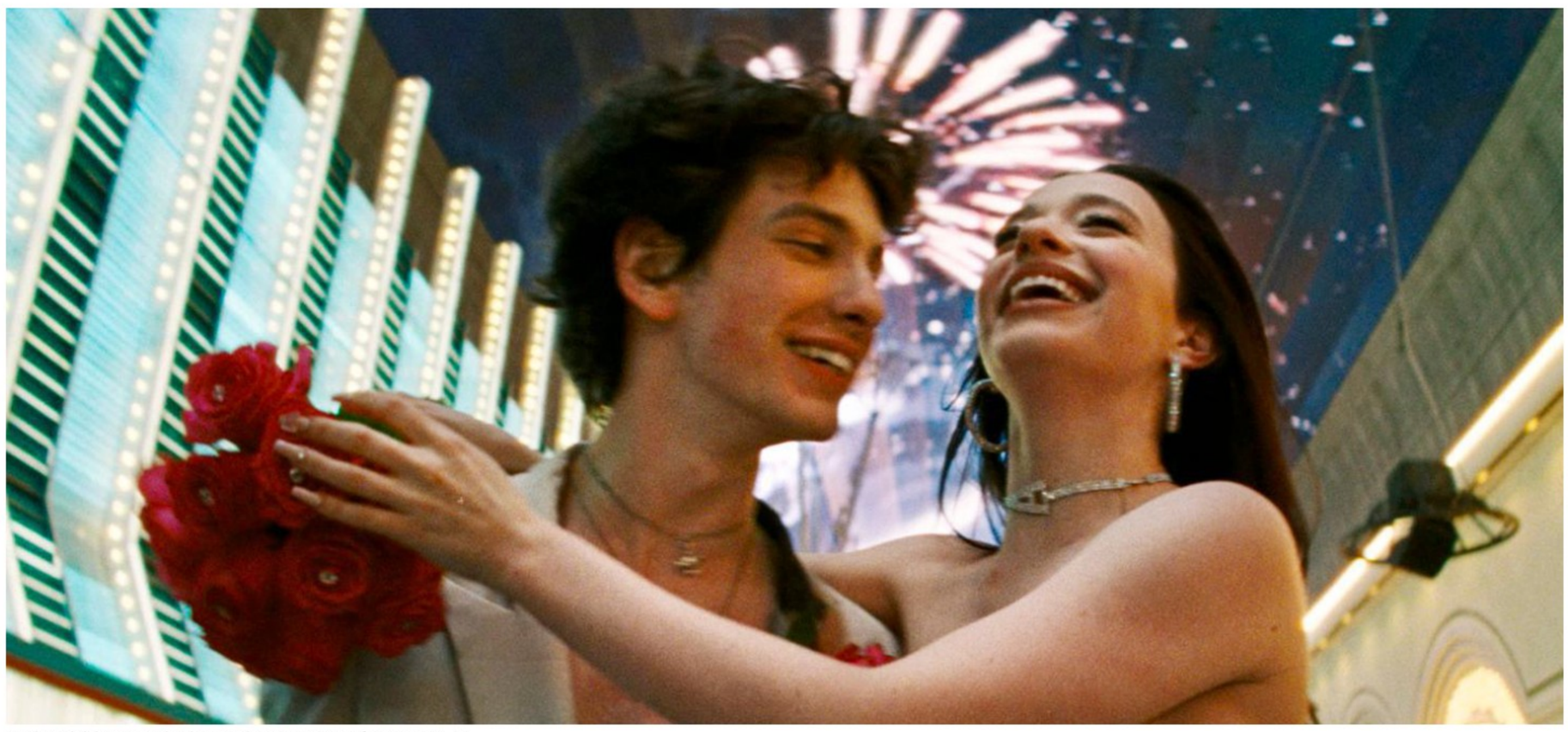
IN THE LIMELIGHT



Mark Eydelshteyn and Mikey Madison in a scene from *Anora*. AP

How 'Anora' is leading the Best Picture race by outlasting the wreckage

This awards season, during which frontrunners martyred themselves under the weight of their own controversies, Sean Baker's Cannes-winner has now emerged as the unexpected favourite to win the top prize at the Oscars 2025

Ayaan Paul Chowdhury

For months, the Oscars race this year has had every contender suffering from some combination of bad luck, bad strategy, or the increasingly unavoidable reality that the Internet never forgets. But then, like a phoenix rising from the ashes of its competitors' self-immolation, *Anora* has now suddenly emerged as the de facto frontrunner – not because it has been running the smartest campaign (which it has), but because, miraculously, it's the last film standing.

Sean Baker's scrappy, $6 million indie, about a Brooklyn sex worker caught in a whirlwind romance with the son of a Russian oligarch had spent the better part of the season as a respected underdog, beloved by critics but largely ignored by the precursors that usually dictate the Oscars trajectory. The Golden Globes snubbed it entirely, and until last week, it seemed destined for the same fate that befalls most Cannes darlings – endless praise, limited hardware.

Then, in one seismic weekend, *Anora* pulled off an improbable hat trick, winning Best Picture at the Producers Guild Awards (PGA), Best Director at the Directors Guild Awards (DGA), and Best Picture at the Critics Choice Awards. It was a decisive flex of industry muscle, and more importantly, a death blow to its competitors, who had spent the week spontaneously combusting.

Drowning in controversy

Each major contender this year seemed to have developed a fatal flaw somewhere along the way: *The Brutalist* couldn't get the Screen Actors Guild to care (not to mention its own brief AI scuffle), *Conclave* suffered from an absent director nomination, *Wicked* saw its director and writers shut out by the Academy, and *A Complete Unknown* was still searching for a room full of people who actually loved it. Meanwhile, former frontrunner on the cusp of glory, *Emilia Pérez* became collateral damage in a controversy so volatile that even its biggest defenders quietly excused themselves from the conversation.

Even *Anora* wasn't immune to controversy. Its lead actress, Mikey Madison, raised eyebrows when she casually admitted that she had opted not to use an intimacy coordinator for the film's numerous explicit sex scenes. But compared to what had befallen its competitors, *Anora*'s missteps seemed almost quaint.

In a season where every major contender has been wounded by scandal, *Anora* has benefited from the one thing no awards strategist can plan for: being the least objectionable choice. That's not to say it doesn't have passionate supporters, but in a year where voters may be exhausted by controversy, it somehow helps that the biggest knock against it is that its makers don't believe in intimacy coordinators.

The case for (and against) 'Anora'

So is *Anora* our Best Picture winner? The odds say yes. In the last 22 years, only three films that won the DGA's top honour failed to win Best Director at the Oscars. In the last 34 years, only nine films that won the PGA Award didn't go on to win Best Picture. The last time a movie swept the Critics Choice, PGA, and DGA and then lost Best Picture was *1917* in 2020 – but that loss was to *Parasite*, another Palme d'Or winner released by Neon, the studio currently shepherding *Anora* to the finish line. If *Anora* does win Best Picture, it will mark Neon's second victory in just five years, which will be an impressive feat for a boutique distributor competing against Hollywood giants.

Beyond statistics, *Anora* has something the other films lack: a compelling narrative. It is the rare Oscar contender that exists at the intersection of indie credibility and mainstream accessibility.

Sean Baker has been making a case for himself as the kind of filmmaker Hollywood needs to reward. He is, after all, a director who still shoots on film, makes movies for under $10 million, and delivers box-office successes without relying on intellectual property, CGI, or a superhero cape. At each podium, he's emphasised the necessity of theatrical releases and independent cinema. He's also nominated in four categories – Director, Producer, Writer, and Editor – meaning that if he sweeps, he will tie Walt Disney's record for most Oscars won in a single night.

That being said, *Anora* is far from a lock. The actors' branch, the largest voting body in the Academy, may not have fully embraced Mikey Madison's appeal against the stalwart likes of Demi Moore in *The Substance* or Fernanda Torres in *I'm Still Here*. Meanwhile, the BAFTAs, which tend to have an outsized influence on the Oscar race, are still ahead, and *Conclave*, Edward Berger's papal thriller, could make up some ground there. If *Anora* wins the Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Ensemble later this month, the race is effectively over. If not, we still have a contest.

'The Brutalist' and its timing

For much of the season, *The Brutalist* was seen as one of the few Best Picture favourites. It had all the usual trappings of an Oscar winner: a star-studded ensemble, an ambitious (if polarising) artistic vision, and just enough suffering on screen to convince voters it was "important." But *The Brutalist* never quite ignited the passion it needed to win.

A three-and-a-half-hour black-and-white drama about an architect's decades-long battle with creative oppression was never going to be an easy sell, but its biggest problem may have been timing. It arrived late, releasing in December, which meant it had to fight for attention just as *Anora* was peaking. Baker's film, by contrast, had been steadily building goodwill since its Cannes debut in May, quietly accumulating fans and proving its staying power.

Can anything still beat 'Anora?'

At this point, it's hard to see where the upset could come from. *Emilia Pérez* is out. *The Brutalist* is weakened. *Dune: Part Two* and *The Substance* are too genre-heavy for Best Picture. *Nickel Boys* and *I'm Still Here* are too small. That leaves *Conclave*, *Wicked*, and *A Complete Unknown*. *Conclave* has a chance, especially if the British contingent of the Academy rallies behind it at the BAFTAs. *Wicked* is a commercial juggernaut, but its lack of industry-wide recognition makes it a long shot. *A Complete Unknown* is still completely unknown.

Meanwhile, *Anora* keeps gaining momentum. The next stop is the BAFTAs, where it has seven nominations. If it picks up a Best Picture or Director win there, it will be the presumptive favourite Then there's the Writers Guild Awards (WGA), where it's nominated for Original Screenplay – another potential boost. And then, of course, the aforementioned SAG Best Ensemble win could put the final nail in the coffin of any last-minute competition.

So, do we have our next Best Picture?

Probably. But this year has been strange enough that nothing feels certain. If *Conclave* or *The Brutalist* manages to rally at the BAFTAs, if SAG shocks with a different Ensemble winner, if the Academy just decides to be unpredictable for the sake of it – well, anything is possible.

For now, though, *Anora* is sitting exactly where it wants to be: at the front of the pack, with history and momentum on its side. The only thing left to do is wait and see if the Academy follows the script or flips the table one last time.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on YouTube on the occasion of its 20th anniversary on February 14

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Name the three individuals who founded YouTube as an online video-sharing platform in 2005.

QUESTION 2
Which tech giant acquired YouTube in November 2006 and for how much?

QUESTION 3
Which music video was the first to reach one billion views on YouTube?

QUESTION 4
What feat does Indian record label T-Series have as regards YouTube?

QUESTION 5
Which children's song video from South Korea holds the current record of most views with more than 15.5 billion views and counting.

QUESTION 6
What is the online alias of Jimmy Donaldson who has the most subscribers on any YouTube channel with more than 361 million?

QUESTION 7
Though no longer playable, what was title of the longest video ever uploaded on YouTube (596.5 hours) by Jonathan Harchick in 2011.

QUESTION 8
Connect the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and Janet Jackson's Super Bowl incident to YouTube.

Visual question:
What is the title of the first-ever uploaded YouTube video and who uploaded it?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. The ICC tournament was formerly called this. **Ans: ICC Knockout Trophy**
2. This is the format played in the tournament. **Ans: ODI**
3. The tournament was inaugrated in this year and in this country. **Ans: 1998; Bangladesh**
4. The second edition of the ICC tournament was held here. **Ans: Kenya**
5. These two countries have won the tournament twice. **Ans: Australia, India**
Visual: Identify this cricketer. **Ans: Kyle Mills. He is the all-time leading wicket-taker in ICC Champions Trophy with 28 scalps in 15 matches**
Early Birds: K. Vidhyasagar| Dinesh Kumar| Pradeepkumar. K| Maneesh. T| Varghese Joseph

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"You wanted another example of gobbledccook. Here is one. The Canadian government describes thus the official duties of a Senior Project Officer. (Such an officer) leads project teams to implement Branch plans: coordinates select horizonal administrative activities and acts as a functional co-ordinator for cross-sectoral development initiatives: assists in Branch policy formulation in response to horizontal strategic issues impacting on the sector development process and then formulates and recommends strategies and initiatives to address these issues: develops, delivers, administers and monitors projects under Branch program to foster development of the sector."

"Oh God!"

"Governments keep changing their terminology from time to time to make things appear better. Here is what a woman said: "I used to think I was poor. Then they told me I wasn't poor: I was needy. Then they said it was self-defeating to think of myself as need that I was culturally deprived. Then they told me deprived was a bad image, that I was underprivileged. Then they told me that underprivileged was overused, that I was disadvantaged. I still don't have a dime – but I have a great vocabulary!"

"We tend to use euphemisms to avoid facing facts. It has been carried to such an extreme that some have defined euphemism as the "language of deceit!" You change the usual terminology hoping that an unpleasant thing will appear pleasant. An employee is not 'fired' but 'selected out', a 'waste basket' is an 'ecological receptacle', a trash collector is a 'garbologist'. 'War department' is referred to as the 'Defence department'."

"Sorry to interrupt you. Please tell me how to pronounce 'a', 'f', 'h', 'l', 'm', 'n', 's','z', letters of the English alphabet. I had an argument with a friend of mine recently."

"In 'a', 'f', 'h', 'l', 'm', 'n' and 's', there is no 'y' sound at the beginning. It is not 'yay' but 'ay', 'a' rhymes with 'say'. A lot of people tend to pronounce 'a' as 'yay'. It is not 'yay but 'ay'. It is 'ef' not 'yef'. It is 'el' not 'yel'. It is not 'yem' but 'em'. It is not 'yen' but 'en'. It is not 'yes' but 'es'. 'h' is pronounced 'aytch' not 'hetch'. 'z' in British English is pronounced 'zed', it rhymes with 'fed', 'bed'. In American English, 'z' is pronounced 'zee'. It rhymes with 'see'. Let's stop here."

Published in The Hindu on June 13, 1995.

Word of the day

Juggernaut:
a massive inexorable force that seems to crush everything in its way

Synonyms: steamroller

Usage: *The new show was hardly the ratings juggernaut that the studio had thought it would be.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/juggernautpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈʤʌg.ə.nɔːt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

FRIDAY
February 14, 2025

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From Page One

Namma Metro fare hike capped at 71%

Mr. Siddaramaiah had earlier taken to social media platform X instructing the Namma Metro chief to reassess and reverse excessive fare hikes. He emphasised the importance of safeguarding commuter interests amid concerns over steep increases.

As per the revised matrix, about 46% of metro commuters – equivalent to nearly 2,91,418 daily passengers – are expected to benefit from the new structure.

"This is being done without diluting the integrity and spirit of the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) recommendations, as per the Metro Railway (Operations & Maintenance) Act, which makes the recommendations binding on the metro rail administration. By addressing the grievances expressed by the travelling public, our commitment is to provide mobility service to various sections of people," Mr. Rao said.

Mr. Rao said the FFC had recommended hikes up to 105.15% for an average 51.5% increase, i.e. 6.87% year-on-year (YoY) basis as against the BMRCL's request of 14.02% YoY, before discount.

The fare revision is taking place after seven-and-a-half years.

Report by fare fixation committee should be made public, say experts

BMRCL managing director acknowledges that technical errors affected the fare calculation and announces revision of the structure

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) faced a severe public backlash after implementing an illogical fare hike, which led to its partial rollback within four days.

The sudden fare increase, introduced on February 9, caused confusion and financial distress among commuters, prompting BMRCL to reduce the hike by 29%.

BMRCL managing director M. Maheshwar Rao acknowledged that technical errors had affected the fare calculation and announced a revision of the fare structure on Thursday.

Transportation experts criticised BMRCL's flawed implementation, dismissing the technical glitch explanation as an unacceptable justification for poor decision-making.

Ashish Verma, convener of the Sustainable Transportation Lab at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), said: "Technical glitches cannot excuse such a shoddy implementation. BMRCL must establish accountability, identify the individuals responsible, and take corrective action."

Mr. Verma also stressed the need for transparency in fare adjustments. He questioned why BMRCL had not made the fare fixation committee (FFC) report public, stating: "Namma Metro must be transparent. This is a public transport service impacting people's lives. They should share these critical details with the public."

Mr. Verma also suggested that BMRCL should consider refunding the extra charges collected owing to the glitch. "A thorough analysis of demand elasticity and socio-economic consequences is crucial before implementing any fare adjustments in the future," he added.

Commuters using the metro on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Ridership declines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The metro has experienced a noticeable decline in passenger numbers following the recent fare revision that took effect on February 9. The metro, which typically accommodates over 8 lakh commuters daily, has seen a reduction of nearly 1 lakh passengers in just four days.

As per official data, the metro registered approximately 8.6 lakh passengers on February 9.

However, the numbers dipped to 8.2 lakh on February 10, reflecting a 4% decrease. The downward trend continued with 7.7 lakh commuters on February 11, indicating a 5% drop. By February 12, the ridership further slipped to 7.6 lakh, translating to a 1.3% reduction.

BMRCL, during its fare revision process, had created 4,623 different fare combinations, with around 459 slabs experiencing increases of up to 100%.

Mr. Rao said: "We are examining ways to rationalise some of these slabs, which may result in a 15% reduction in certain fares."

Transportation engineering expert M.N. Srihari condemned the fare hike as unscientific and poorly planned. He argued that a 71% hike in public transport fares is unreasonable.

"Public transport companies should follow a standard hike of 10 to 15%, which itself is substantial. BMRCL had not revised fares for eight years. If it had implemented smaller, periodic increases every one or two years, this situation could have been avoided. Now, suddenly hiking fares by 100% is unacceptable," he said.

Mr. Srihari emphasised that the mismanagement of fare policies and delayed decisions should not burden the public. "This policy mistake is theirs, but they are making the common man pay for it," he added.

Meanwhile, the BMRCL officials justified the fare hike by citing rising operational costs and mounting debts. They pointed out that staff expenses, which account for 61% of operational and maintenance costs, have surged by 42% since 2017 owing to inflation and wage adjustments. Similarly, energy costs, comprising 19% of total expenditure, climbed by 34% following an increase in electricity tariffs.

The sharpest rise, however, was in maintenance and administrative expenses. It escalated by 366% and now represents 20% of operational costs. These financial pressures collectively necessitated a fare revision, officials argued.

Beyond operational expenses, BMRCL is grappling with substantial loan repayment commitments, officials said.

INBRIEF

Tree-fall near Lalbagh main gate leads to traffic disruption

A massive tree got uprooted and fell on Krumbiegel Road near Lalbagh main gate, leading to a major traffic disruption on Thursday around 10 p.m. The road was shut between Lalbagh main gate and west gate for over an hour.

Authorities were forced to close the road and divert traffic towards Lalbagh Fort Road. The sudden change led to confusion among commuters, resulting in congestion at the Lalbagh main gate junction. Traffic police were deployed at the site to manage the situation, while BBMP authorities were alerted to clear the obstruction.

Padma Shri awardee and folk artist Sukri passes away

Folk artist and Padma Shri award recipient Sukri Bomma Gowda, also known for her anti-liquor protest, breathed her last at her residence in Badageri village of Ankola taluk in Uttara Kannada on Thursday.

Better known as Sukrajji, the 88-year-old artist was not well for the past few months. Recently, she returned home after receiving treatment at a private hospital in Mangaluru. Having recovered a bit, she had spent the day chatting with her kith and kin on Wednesday. She breathed her last during the early hours of Thursday, family sources said.

Traffic eases on Outer Ring Road after removal of BMRCL girder launcher

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a day of severe traffic snarls, the Outer Ring Road (ORR) flyover between 14th and 19th Main at HSR Layout in the city has been reopened to traffic, following the repair and removal of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) girder launcher, the traffic police confirmed on Thursday.

The congestion was caused by the metro construction work at 14th Main where a girder sliding operation led to road closures and diversions. Commuters were directed towards Silk Board via 19th Main, resulting in heavy traffic jams across BTM Layout, Central Silk Board, and Ragigudda.

The Electronics City flyover approach towards Silk Board was also gridlocked, causing major delays for office-goers and motorists during peak hours.

In a related update, traffic police have announced the reopening of the Ragigudda double-decker road, which had been shut due to a technical issue with the girder launcher at 14th Main.

Vehicles moving on the main road towards HSR Layout flyover on the Outer Ring Road.

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'State spent only 2.01% of GDP on higher education'

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Karnataka was third last in terms of spending on higher education, according to a recently released NITI Aayog policy report of 'Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities.'

According to the data for 2020-21, despite being a major hub of higher education in the country, Karnataka spent only 2.01% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on higher education. Jammu and Kashmir spent the highest - 8.11% of the GDP, followed by Manipur (7.25%), Meghalaya (6.64%), and Tripura (6.19%), according to the report. Below Karnataka were Delhi with 1.67% and Telangana with 2%.

In the same period, Karnataka also allocated ₹5,129 crore in its Budget for higher education. Maharashtra led in funding with ₹11,421 crore, followed by Bihar (₹9,666 crore), and Tamil Nadu (₹7,237 crore), the report said.

"The Karnataka government is allocating only 12% of its State Budget for the education sector every year. Out of this, 70% of the funds are allocated for school education, while the remaining 30% is allocated for higher education. This will be a setback for the development of the higher education sector, especially when government colleges and public universities are facing a shortage of funds. The State government should allocate 26% of its Budget for the education sector," said Sripada Bhat, an educationist.

However, Karnataka led in college density in India with 66 colleges per one lakh eligible population (18-23 years), which was more than twice the national average of 30.

Though India advanced in terms of improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER,) in higher education, the progress was not uniform across all States.

Tamil Nadu had shown maximum improvement with a GER of 47%, while Karnataka had 36.2% GER, which was considerably higher than the national average of 28.4%, the report said. "Between 1950-51 and 2021-22, GER in India increased 71 times. The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) aims to achieve a GER of 50% by 2035," the report said.

In pupil-teacher ratio, Karnataka was among the best performers. Against the national average of 23:1, it stood at 15:1 in Karnataka. Tamil Nadu led with a pupil-teacher ratio of 14:1.

As per the report, Karnataka had 11% of the top 100 universities in the country, while Tamil Nadu topped with 22%. India has 495 State Public Universities (SPS), with Karnataka leading with 43, followed by West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh 38 each.

Meanwhile, the NITI Aayog has praised the 'English Skills for Youth' programme in Karnataka, which was launched in 2024.

Karnataka led in college density in India with 66 colleges per one lakh eligible population (18-23 years). FILE PHOTO

THG Publishing signs MoU with Jyothy institute

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

THG Publishing Pvt. Ltd, through its division STEP (Standardised Test of English Proficiency) from *The Hindu* Group, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Wednesday with Jyothy Institute of Commerce and Management, Bengaluru, to organise a STEP learning programme.

STEP is an English language testing, training and certification programme, launched by *The Hindu* Group.

STEP is to make high-quality English language learning economical and accessible to all by using advanced technology and world-class training practices. STEP's tests and training programmes help students, institutions and employers' access and improve their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

STEP's learning programme STEP Train has been selected by AICTE and MHRD as part of the government's National Education Alliance for Technology (NEAT 2.0) programme as the only English certification course on the platform.

The board of members who were present for signing the MoU were Rajesh K., executive director, Lakshman Prasad, aademic director, S. Sathyeshwar, principal, and Sowmya T.R., public relations officer.

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Love, choices, and new connections through a single's lens

We talk to singles in the city to understand what they want, how they are meeting people and what lies ahead for dating in Bengaluru

City's singles are also carving out their own space - whether by embracing solo self-care, seeking deeper connections, or redefining what love means. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sreshaja J.R.
BENGALURU

As February arrives, the air is filled with love, with plans for Valentine's Day in full bloom. Bengaluru appears to have embraced its romantic side with open arms.

From flower-laden streets to cafes adorned with heart-shaped decor, couples strolling hand in hand, indulging in candlelit dinners, and exchanging roses, exquisite chocolates being crafted and the sweet symphony of love songs filling the air, every corner of the city seems to whisper tales of romance.

But amidst this grand celebration of love, the city's singles are also carving out their own space - whether by embracing solo self-care, seeking deeper connections, or redefining what love means. From book clubs to hiking groups and intimate gatherings, they try to find joy in meaningful interactions in many forms, whether through a swipe, a chance meeting, or an unexpected conversation.

This Valentine's Day, we tell you what Bengaluru's singles are doing to find love, connections, and comfort.

Singles mixer

Valentine's Day often comes with a certain pressure, leaving many singles either avoiding the occasion altogether or feeling out of place amidst a sea of couple-centric events. The "Book Lovers' Singles Mixer" held earlier this month, offered a refreshing alternative: romance was not the primary goal but a delightful possibility. Instead of swiping left or right in the dating apps, attendees were encouraged to connect over their shared passion for literature. As the event's tagline says, "Great connections start with a good story."

Unlike the typical Valentine's Day revelry filled with candlelit dinners and couple's retreats, this gathering had a different kind of romance at its core - one fueled by words, characters and the shared love for stories. "Book Lovers' Singles Mixer" is an event organised by Atta Galatta in Indiranagar designed to bring together bibliophiles in search of both a good read and perhaps, a meaningful connection.

Shelves lined with literary classics, contemporary best sellers and well-worn paperbacks framed the scene, creating the perfect setting for a love story or, at the very least, an evening of engaging literary discourse. The night was not just about books; it was about breaking down the awkwardness that often comes with meeting someone new.

Helming this unique initiative was Radhika Agrawal, author of Red Flags and Rishtas, a witty and relatable novel exploring the complexities of modern dating. As a writer who has delved into the intricacies of relationships through her works, Agrawal was the perfect host to guide the participants through an evening filled with quirky icebreakers and playful dating games. "You have to put yourself out there and stay optimistic", said Radhika at the event. "Love arrives when you least expect it."

Dating culture

But for the average single Bengaluruean, finding love is far from easy. According to Souvik Vas, a software engineer, the city's dating culture is "pretty messed up."

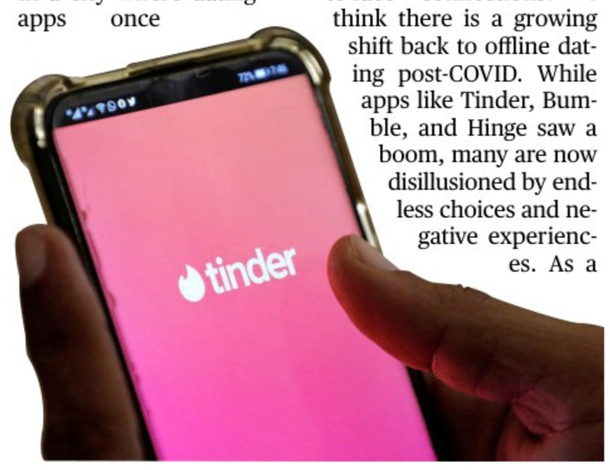
"Men complain they can't find matches, while women say they have too many options but not the right ones. People are chasing the wrong partners and ending up with nothing," said Vas, who has been living in Bengaluru for six years. "Since dating is still relatively new in India, where arranged marriages were the norm, many are still figuring it out on their own," he added.

People also feel that dating apps create a barrier to genuine connections. While they enjoy initial conversation, they believe offline meetings offer a clearer sense of a person's true nature. "I don't like the digital barrier. An hour or two in-person gives a much clearer sense of someone. Online, it's easy to fake who we are, so do you really know if someone is genuine and stands by their opinions?" said Kshitij Agrawal.

By most accounts, in today's dating landscapes, opportunities to meet people have increased, but authentic relationships are harder to find. While dating apps offer exciting possibilities, they often overwhelm and confuse users. "Women now have the freedom to choose, but dating apps create a mindset where there is always another option, making real connections harder," said Swati Hegde, a romance author. She believes we should choose partners "without turning dating into a game."

Back to offline dating

In a city where dating apps once reshaped modern romance, a seismic shift unfolds as people seem to be moving away from the endless swipes and screens. Instead, they are reclaiming the thrill of organic, face-to-face connections. "I think there is a growing shift back to offline dating post-COVID. While apps like Tinder, Bumble, and Hinge saw a boom, many are now disillusioned by endless choices and negative experiences. As a result, singles are turning to in-person events," said Radhika.



Clearly, the fast-paced nature of dating apps and instant connections feels superficial to some people, who prefer the traditional ways of meeting through mutual friends, at cafes, or during social events. Gayatri Rawat, who is based out of Delhi and has recently moved here, agrees. "My friends told me that the dating culture in Bengaluru is thriving, but honestly, being an old school, I'm not a fan of this dating scene," says Gayatri. "I prefer meeting people organically."

In-person chemistry

This belief that chemistry is best built in person appears to be fast-spreading in Bengaluru, which is evident in the increasing popularity of offline dating events, speed dating sessions, and book-themed mixers where people can connect beyond the digital facade. The single's mixer for book lovers, for instance, was crammed with people eager for the possibilities of love and connections.

"There is no such thing as emotional safety in love. You can't guarantee your heart won't be broken or that there will be a happy ending."

"It's not a movie. You have to put yourself out there and stay optimistic," said Radhika while talking about the vulnerability that comes with seeking love.

"Don't keep a checklist and tick it off. Sometimes, the person who is not your type is actually the right one," she advises.

A celebration of classical music, dance and arts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sanjog Charitable Trust, in association with Prestige Centre for Performing Arts (PCPA), is set to host Dakshin Brindavan Sangeet Sammelan, 2025, on February 16 at the PCPA in Konanakunte, Bengaluru.

This event has been an annual highlight for over two decades, bringing together the best of traditional and contemporary musical expressions.

Spearheaded by Pravin Godkhindi and his family, Sanjog has been presenting the Krishnadhwani award to musicians since its inception in 2016.

The 2025 edition will kick off with an all-women concert. Shashikala Dani, on Jaltarang, and Suma Hegde, on the santoor, will showcase the unique sounds of their instruments.

This year's award will be presented to Pandit Suresh Talwalkar who will be presenting Taal Yatra, a percussion ensemble. This 12-member group blends percussion, vocals, and Kathak dance.

Entry too all the concerts is free.

Bird walks for children to be held in eight Indian cities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of the Great Backyard Bird Count, a community science project in ornithology supported by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, which is held annually in February, a series of bird walks for children will be held in eight Indian cities on February 15 and 16. The walks, which will be held in Bengaluru, Dimapur, Halol, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Ranchi, Trivandrum, and Ujjain, are being organised by Early Bird and Ataavi Bird Foundation in partnership with other organisations, including the Coastal Karnataka Bird Watchers Network (CKBWN), Ecowarriors Nagaland, Keystone Foundation and Prakriti, among others.

To register, log into bit.ly/8cities8walks

Organizational Theatre's devised play explores identity, corporate struggles, and family bonds

To Be Or Not To Be, a play based on Shakespeare's famed soliloquy from the play *Hamlet*

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Organizational Theatre is back with *To Be Or Not To Be*, a play that uses Shakespeare's famed soliloquy from the play *Hamlet* as a thematic frame, directed by Ranji David, at ADA Ranga Mandira in Bengaluru on February 16.

The play, according to the synopsis by the team, follows the story of three characters caught in a large city, their dreams, aspirations and desires, along with the people in a city who are constantly running a meaningless rat race. The play is developed based on true life stories that have emerged from the actors during devising.

Directed by Ranji David, the first story the play traces the life of a young girl, who at a very young age begins to explore the identity of a male. She slowly begins her inner journey towards changing her gender completely. To be a man or to be a woman is her turmoil. The second story is of a woman who is caught in the corporate world. Her first experience is a sour one, a manager who is more focused on her than the tasks at hand. As she moves from office to office she realises the challenges

A scene ftom the play *To Be Or Not To Be.*

are many. To be in the corporate world or not to be in the corporate world is her inner dilemma.

The third story is of several parents whose children have now settled outside India, many of whom do not even come back for the final rites of the parents. Will the children ever realise the true situations of their parents back home, is what the play explores.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ranji David said that the play was based on true events that have occurred in the lives of the actors in the play. "I specialise in devised theatre and implement it most of my plays. I picked up situations and circumstances of the play *Hamlet* and asked the actors to improvise on it. Devised theatre allows actors to share their personal stories, and as soon as we started rehearsing I broke the team into groups and asked them to devise something based on a situation in their lives that has been transformational. I began to see a pattern in their stories. The first set of stories that we are performing is based on an actor who was assigned gender as female and over a period she transitioned to a male. I realised this story would push the audience toward 'To be or not be," he explained.

"We started working on the play last year, and it took us close to six months to devise the whole production. The first set of shows were based on stories of actors from then, but this time we have a new team performing. I have auditioned actors from different theatre groups making sure the essence of the first few shows were retained, and in fact we have gone deeper into the stories," David said.

The theatre production consists of 30 actors and eleven members in the tech crew, including assistant directors Luvena Rangel and Sanjay Singh, light execution by Aditya Kulkarni, music execution by Sandhya Rajendran, props and masks by Arjun M., costume design by Almas Kotadia, sceneography by Anand kumar and projections by Rasheed Kappan

The play is at 12 noon and tickets are is priced at ₹375 at ADA. Ranga Mandira box office and on BookMyShow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 14, 1975

Compromise on Motion Against Opposition

Bangalore, Feb. 13: The Treasury Benches in the Karnataka Assembly today relented amidst stiff resistance from the Opposition on a censure motion they had sponsored against the Opposition for their conduct in stalling the Governor's Address to the joint session on Feb. 10 and settled for another motion which only sought a Speaker constituted committee to suggest action and draw up guidelines.

After an hour-long debate on a point of order raised by the Opposition assailing the propriety of the motion which had singled out four members of the Opposition, the Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, Leader of the House, sought half an hour adjournment of the House to enable consultation with the Opposition leaders to find an alternative. The alternative motion was moved by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr. S.M. Krishna and adopted by the House much to the satisfaction of the Opposition.The Speaker said she would name the committee personnel tomorrow.

Bangalore Palace land to Come under Reforms Act

Bangalore, Feb. 13: It had come to the notice of the Government that the 320 acres of land inside the Bangalore Palace, belonging to the former Maharaja of Mysore, was actually agricultural land and therefore it would come under the Land Reforms Act, the Leader of the House, Mr. Hutchamasty Gowda, told the Legislative Council today.

Answering the question of Mr. D. Rajagopal (Cong), Mr. Hutchmasty Gowda said that the old revenue records of 1889 indicated that the present lands of the Bangalore Palace belonged to some villages and they were acquired by the royal family. Besides, the late ruler in the wealth tax returns filed by him in 1959 had claimed tax exemption on these lands describing them as agricultural lands.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Snakebite cases and deaths are notifiable

The Department of Health, Government of Karnataka, issued a notification on February 12, 2024, making snakebite cases and deaths as notifiable under the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act 2020. Karnataka's Health Department directed all hospitals and medical colleges including private facilities to mandatorily enter all snakebite cases and deaths on the IHIP.

Sharp rise in recorded snakebites and deaths

Ever since the snakebites and deaths were made notifiable, their numbers have witnessed a sharp rise. While the number of snakebites more than doubled from 6,596 in 2023 to 13,235 during 2024, the number of deaths had shown a sharp rise from 19 in 2023 to 101 in 2024. Karnataka is the first State in India to make snakebite cases and deaths notifiable.

A project to study the behaviour of vipers

A unique radio telemetry project to study the behaviour of Russell's vipers, a venomous species of snake, was taken jointly by Humane Society International (HSI)/India, and Liana Trust, in Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district. The project involved surgical insertions of radio transmitters in 22 Russell's vipers found in the agricultural landscape of Hunsur taluk.

Active during sowing and harvesting season

A radio telemetry study on the behaviour of Russell's vipers around the rice fields of Hunsur taluk in the Mysuru district has shown that the species is most active when snakelets are born in May-June, which coincides with sowing season, and again during the mating season between October and mid December that coincides with the harvesting season.

National action plan against snakebite

The National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming in India launched by the Union Health Ministry in March 2024 seeks to halve the number of deaths and cases of disability that it causes by 2030. India accounts for around 60,000 deaths and around 1.5 lakh cases of morbidity every year on account of snakebites.

Serpentarium near Hunsur helps produce region-specific antivenom

Set up by Gerard Martin, the founder Trustee of Liana Trust, it will be housing a total of seven species of snakes found in the region to start with

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

For long known as the land of snake charmers as dubbed by colonialists, India is also the world's snakebite capital with an estimated 10 lakh people finding themselves at receiving end of the serpent's lethal fangs every year. An unprecedented level of human-snake conflict stares at India, which accounts for almost 60,000 of the 1,40,000 global deaths due to venomous snakebites every year, a figure far higher than the human lives lost in conflict with other wild animals like elephants, leopards, tigers etc.

Less than a year after becoming India's first State to declare snakebite envenoming cases and deaths as a notifiable disease in February 2024, Karnataka has become home to a serpentarium, the first of its kind in the country dedicated for snakebite research. The serpentarium set up in Rathnapuri near Hunsur in Mysuru district recently will begin extracting venom from snake species found in Karnataka for production of a more potent antivenom as part of the efforts to develop an effective treatment for snakebite victims in the State.

A view of the indoor Serpentarium at Rathnapuri. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anti-venom production

For the production of antivenom, a small amount of snake venom is injected into a large animal like a horse, which over a period of time develops antibodies that are harvested from the animal's blood plasma. These antibodies are used as the life-saving antivenom for snakebite victims.

A file picture of venom extraction.

Presently, antivenom is produced from the venom of four species of snakes found in Tamil Nadu - Common Krait, Russell's Viper, Saw Scaled Viper, Spectacled Cobra. The antivenom produced from the four species in Tamil Nadu, also known as 'big four', is used as a polyvalent antivenom against all snakebites, pointed out Herpetologist Sumanth Bindumadhav, who is also the Director of Wildlife Department of Humane Society International/India.

In a country as vast and as ecologically diverse as India, herpetologists have emphasised the need for a more diverse antivenom made from the venom of snakes of different species and regions to not only mitigate a large number of deaths but also prevent loss of limb, tissue damage, kidney failure or other forms of morbidity on account of snakebites.

Even though the State Government seeks to reassure the public that Karnataka has adequate stock of antivenom for snakebites with as many as 60,000 vials available at all its public health facilities in the State, Gerard Martin, the founder Trustee of Liana Trust, which has set up the serpentarium, points out that the venom of the snakes varies from species to species and region to region. "Even in the same species of snakes, the venom varies from one part of the country to another. The venom is different from a Russell's viper that is found here from a Russel's viper found in West Bengal. To have an efficient antivenom, which is effective and could save lives, we need to develop antivenom from the venom of snakes of that region," he said.

For antivenom to be effective, it should be administered not only as early as possible, but also be made from the venom of snakes of the same region as the snake that has bitten the victim.

Seven species

The Serpentarium near Hunsur will be housing to start with a total of seven species of snakes found in the region viz. Common Krait, Russell's Viper, Saw Scaled Viper, Spectacled Cobra, King Cobra, and two species of Pit Viper - the Malabar Pit Viper and Hump-nosed Pit Viper.

The facility presently comprises about 40 snakes belonging to common krait variety kept in an indoor facility while 22 Russel's vipers and 16 cobras are housed in other enclosures. While collaborating with the Evolutionary Venomics Laboratory at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, for venom-based research, the serpentarium aims to mass-produce venom samples by adhering to World Health Organization (WHO) standards and supplying the same to antivenom producers free of cost.

The venom will be supplied to both state-owned and private companies in the State for the production of quality antivenom that can be effective for the treatment of snakebite victims from the region. The serpentarium, which is funded by the Habitats Trust, was a 'life-saving initiative and was not a commercial venture, says Martin.

Curator of the serpentarium Lisa Gonsalves pointed out that a snake catchers co-operative society in Tamil Nadu was presently involved in harvesting venom from snakes captured from the wild for the purpose of producing antivenom. But, the serpentarium will captive breed the snakes and extract venom from them without ecologically disturbing them. "Venom extraction can be done only once a month from each snake," she added.

Research and conservation

The serpentarium is also expected to serve as a centre for training in snake husbandry, research and conservation, fostering a new generation of experts in these fields. "We will ensure much better snake husbandry practices than the country has ever seen before. Our snakes are healthy, bioactive and naturalistic places serve as their enclosures," said Martin.

WhatsApp chatbot for snakebite awareness

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Liana Trust, which has set up a serpentarium in Rathnapuri near Hunsur in Mysuru district recently, is also behind a WhatsApp chatbot, the first such initiative in Karnataka on snakebite awareness that educates citizens about snakes and snakebite prevention.

The chatbot launched by Humane Society International/India in collaboration with the Liana Trust, seeks to enable the community to learn about snakes around them and puts first-aid for snakebites at their fingertips.

The automated chatbot, which can be accessed by messaging 'Hi' to WhatsApp number +919154190472 disseminates engaging visual content in both English and Kannada. More than 3,000 users have registered themselves on the WhatsApp chatbot, which was launched in June 2024.

The chatbot seeks to enable the community to learn about snakes around them and puts information on snakebites at their fingertips

The person messaging the automated chat is asked to share the details of his region so that content specific to the region can be shared before offering to share information about snakes in the region, myths about snakes, avoiding snakebites, snakebite first aid etc. A poster of the WhatsApp chatbot seeks to enlighten people that milk was harmful to snakes while cautioning people against cutting or touching the wound created by snakebite. The chatbot also shares the dos and donts while providing first aid for snakebites.

Many people have an innate fear of snakes for various reasons including a lack of meaningful information about them. This often leads to snakes being killed or relocated to alien habitats where they have little chance of survival. The app addresses this information vacuum.

A poster of the WhatsApp chatbot on snakebite awareness. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A statement from HIS/India's Vinod Krishnan, said, "Snakebite is a mass problem which requires a mass solution. As per our survey in the Mysore district, WhatsApp is one of the most used digital apps. Hence, this is an easy platform to reach many people with vital information that could save human lives and prevent snake persecution. While there is venom research and strengthening of healthcare infrastructure overall to ensure quality care for those affected, preventing a bite from occurring and knowing the right first aid once a bite occurs is crucial."

Gerry Martin, founder of The Liana Trust, said, "As we progress in avenues of public outreach, our methods need to evolve and keep with the times. The chatbot is a great way to have a continuous dialogue with the community."

HSI/India and The Liana Trust have been working in the Mysore district since 2018 through ecological studies, social surveys, community outreach, policy reform, and institutional capacity building, all to aid in the development of a model district for snakebite prevention and management.

Plea in Karnataka HC challenges Cabinet rank given to 34 legislators

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday adjourned till February 21 hearing on a PIL petition that questioned the legality of extending Cabinet Minister rank with associated facilities to 34 MLAs and MLCs on their appointment as heads of various boards and corporations by the State government.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice M.I. Arun adjourned the hearing after briefly hearing the arguments on the petition filed by Suri Payala, resident of Bengaluru and working as Engineer-in-Chief level officer with KSPCB.

Advocate J. Sai Deepak, appearing for the petitioner, said there was no problem in mere appointment of 34 legislators as heads of various boards and corporation but the issue is whether the rank of Cabinet Minister can be extended to them.

The extension of Cabinet Minister rank to the 34 legislators is a clear violation of Article 164 (1A) of the Constitution of India, which restricts number of Ministers in the Council of Ministers in a State to 15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State, Mr. Deepak said, while pointing out that permissible number of Ministers in Karnataka is 34 and there are already 33 Ministers.

Extending the Cabinet Minister rank to additional 34 legislators on their appointment as heads of various boards and corporation amounts to violation of the mandate of Article 164(A), he argued.

Bird flu: A.P. declares four areas as biosecurity zones

Security restrictions have been imposed in three layers at each of the biosecurity zones; beyond 10 km of the hotspots, there is no restriction on sale and consumption of chicken and eggs

The Hindu Bureau
AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh government has declared four areas as biosecurity zones, where restrictions have been imposed in view of the outbreak of avian influenza (bird flu) in some parts of the State.

The four areas are Badampudi in Eluru district, Velpuru and Kanuru in West Godavari district, and Gampalagudem in NTR district.

Addressing the media at the Secretariat on Thursday, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry K. Atchannaidu said based on the guidelines from the Centre, the biosecurity zones were declared in the areas where there was outbreak of bird flu.

A view of a poultry farm, near Nunna, in NTR district. G.N. RAO

Security restrictions were imposed in three layers at each of the biosecurity zone. The first layer, termed as the 'red zone', would be within a radius of one-km from the village where bird flu was prevalent. Here, there would be restriction in the mobility of people and birds from one farm to the other.

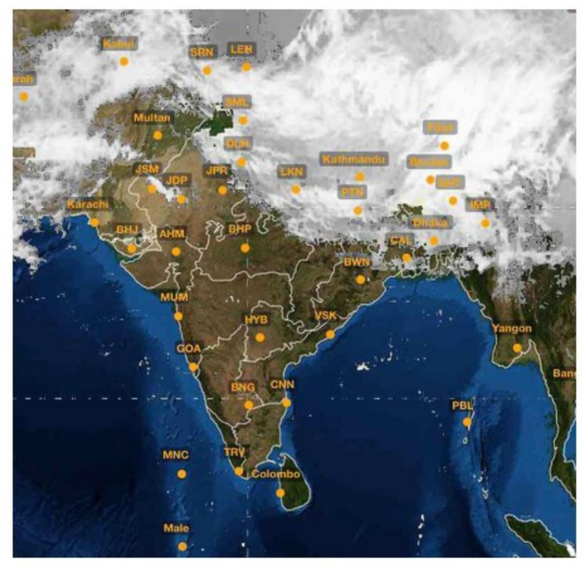
The second layer, called the 'surveillance area', restrictions were imposed between one-km and 10-km from the influenza hotspot. The government would monitor the situation in the area. Here, there was no restriction on mobility. Beyond 10 km, there was no restriction on sale and consumption of chicken and eggs.

District Collectors, officials from the Animal Husbandry, Medical and Health, and other departments were instructed to monitor the situation on an hourly basis, he said.

T. Damodar Naidu, Director of Animal Husbandry, said the reason for the outbreak of bird flu was migratory birds. "The migratory birds may carry the virus, but they have resistance power," he added.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Sikkim and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal. Cold wave condition likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.4	21.4	Kozhikode	—	34.2	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	32.4	17.4	Kurnool	—	37.6	21.1
Aizawl	—	28.9	11.2	Lucknow	—	26.4	12.9
Allahabad	—	26.2	10.6	Madurai	—	35.0	21.5
Bengaluru	—	33.3	17.0	Mangaluru	—	33.1	21.4
Bhopal	—	26.6	8.4	Mumbai	—	36.0	16.5
Bhubaneswar	—	35.4	21.6	Mysuru	—	34.0	12.1
Chandigarh	—	24.2	9.3	New Delhi	—	24.8	12.0
Chennai	—	31.7	21.5	Patna	—	26.0	16.5
Coimbatore	—	35.1	20.7	Port Blair	—	30.5	21.8
Dehradun	—	24.0	8.0	Puducherry	—	31.9	21.1
Gangtok	—	11.6	7.7	Pune	—	37.5	18.5
Goa	—	37.0	24.0	Raipur	—	34.9	18.5
Guwahati	—	26.8	13.1	Ranchi	—	25.2	15.5
Hubballi	—	37.0	18.0	Shillong	—	18.1	8.0
Hyderabad	—	35.2	19.9	Shimla	—	17.2	6.5
Imphal	—	26.3	16.2	Srinagar	—	14.1	-2.4
Jaipur	—	26.8	13.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.6	23.1
Kochi	—	31.6	24.6	Tiruchi	—	33.7	21.4
Kohima	—	20.5	13.3	Vijayawada	—	34.5	19.8
Kolkata	—	29.5	22.8	Visakhapatnam	—	31.1	23.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.35	.55	12	128	112	
Bengaluru	.43	.12	63	87	118	
Chennai	.21	.16	99	25	137	
Delhi	.7	.54	16	174	196	
Hyderabad	.6	100	.8	112	127	
Kolkata	.5	123	45	96	.96	
Lucknow	.12	.84	64	130	153	
Mumbai	.27	.55	.—	192	186	
Pune	.—	172	59	215	195	
Visakhapatnam	.9	.71	22	68	108	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 324 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

3 killed as two tuskers run amok in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Three persons were killed and 36 were injured, many critically, when two captive elephants went berserk during a temple festival at Koyilandy in Kozhikode district of Kerala on Thursday. According to the police, the elephants ran amok after hearing the sound of firecrackers during a ritualistic procession.

Yatnal says he will not reply to notice as deadline ends

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking a stubborn stand, BJP rebel leader Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal has made it clear that he will not reply to the show-cause notice issued to him by the party's central disciplinary committee. The 72-hour deadline given to him to respond ended on Thursday.

"I have not received any show-cause notice. Even if it has been issued by the party, I will not reply to it," Mr. Yatnal told media persons at Almatti. "I get hundreds of such notices, I cannot reply to all of them," Mr. Yatnal remarked.

The disciplinary committee had indicated that it would proceed with action against him if he did not reply to the notice within 72 hours to show cause as to why no action should be initiated against him. The party issued the notice to the Vijayapura MLA on February 10 on the charge of violating party discipline by launching a tirade against the party State leadership.

Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal

A group of disgruntled leaders, under the leadership of Mr. Yatnal, has raised a banner of revolt against party State unit president B.Y. Vijayendra.

The rebel group had taken exception to appointments of district party presidents recently, saying that Mr. Vijayendra had manipulated the election process to ensure appointment of his close aides. This had been done to ensure his own continuity as State president as the district presidents would have to elect the State president for which elections are scheduled to be elected soon, they contended.

On his part, Mr. Vijayendra maintained that he had no role in the appointment of district unit chiefs. Both the camps had gone to Delhi to meet the party central leaders to make their stands clear. However, when there was an indication of rebellion unfolding in the national capital, with the rebels visiting Delhi again, the central leadership cracked the whip.

While it issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Yatnal, it also put on hold the appointment of Chickballapur district unit president B. Sandeep.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (ELE), Bommanahalli Zone.
Begur Main Road Bommanahalli, Bangalore-68

No: EE/ELE/BHZ/TEND/04/2024-25 Date : 13.02.2025

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Corrigendum pertaining to change in calendar of events.
Ref : 1) Tender notification No: **EE/ELE/BHZ/TEND/04/2024-25 Date : 05.02.2025**
With reference to the above mentioned tender published in this newspaper on **06.02.2025**, due to technical reasons the calendar of events are modified.The modified dates and revised EMD amount are given below. All other conditions remain unchanged.
Modified Date : a) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal from **14-02-2025 16.30 hrs onwards. b)** Last Date and Time for Tender Queries on or before **19-02-2025 upto 16:00hrs. c)** Date and time of pre bid meeting: **20-02-2025 at 11:30hrs. d)** Tenders must be submitted online through the KPP portal on or before **03-03-2025 by 16:00hrs. e)** Date of opening of technical bids : **04-03-2025 at 16:30hrs. f)** Date of opening of financial bids : **06-03-2025 at 11:00hrs. Onwards.**
Modified EMD : Rs. 12.08 Lakhs (Rs. Twelve Lakh and Eight thousand only) **Rs. 01.00 Lakhs** (Rs. One Lakh only) shall be paid through online Payment in KPP Portal and remaining **Rs 11.08 Lakhs** (Rs. Eleven lakh and Eight Thousand only) shall be paid through Bank. Guarantee)
Sd/-, Executive Engineer (Elec.) Bommanahalli Zone, BBMP

DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY
District Programme Management Unit, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar
308, 3rd Floor, District Administrative Building, B. Rachaiah Double Road, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar
Email ID : rchochamarajanagar@gmail.com Phone No. : 08226-355162

Sl.No: DHFWS/CHN/NHM/E-Tender/HR/01/2024-25 Date : 13-02-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

District Health and Family Welfare Society, Chamarajanagar inviting tender through e-procurement under National Health Mission programme for Human Resource through Outsource Agency for the Financial Year 2025-26. Tender document gets on Website : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and more information please contact above office at office hour.

1	Tender No.	DHFWS/2024-25/SE1262
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	Dated 20-02-2025, 11.00 AM
3	Last Date for Tender upload	Dated 13-03-2025, 4.00 PM
4	Technical Bid open date and time	Dated 14-03-2025, 4.00 PM
5	Financial Bid open date and time	Dated 18-03-2025, 11.00 AM
6	Approximate Tender Amount	Rs. 2,46,63,696/-
7	EMD Amount	Rs. 3,70,000/-
8	Tender Period	1 year

Sd/- Vice President
District Health and Family Welfare Society
Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar
DIPR : CHANAGAR:613:2024-25

(Govt of Karnataka)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.W.D DIVISION SEDAM
No. EE/PWD/Dvn/Sed/TS-1/2024-25/2910 Date : 12-02-2025

-:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::-

1) Details of Works : 1. Total no of work 02 in under Chincholi Indent No's are : 18325, 18487 2) Head of Account : Under KKRDB For the year 2024-25. 3) Amount Put to Tender: **Lowest Estimate Cost: Rs. 226.00 Lakhs, Highest Estimate Cost : Rs. 999.00 Lakhs**, 4) Eligibility of Contractor : Class-I contractor & Above, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting Date: **21-02-2025, Morning 11:30 Hrs,** 6) Last date & time for Tender Queries & receipt of tenders : **24-02-2025 - 17:30:00 Hrs**, 7) Tender Form Fee & EMD Amount: Tender processing fee & EMD As per e-portal, 8) Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **25-02-2025 - 16:00:00 Hrs**, 9) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **27-02-2025 - 16:30:00 Hrs**, 10) Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid : **01-03-2025 - 16:30:00 Hrs**, 11) Communication Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam, 12) Internet Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in 13) If any changes for Cancelation : Any Changes and cancelations are done in www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Note: 1) The undersigned has to power to postponement/rejecting the tenders, 2) If any changes are there in upcoming days These Tenders are not published in tender bulletin it should be read in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam
DIPR/Kalaburagi/950/KSMC&A/2024-25

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560020.
ಸಂ.: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/LAC-823/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13–02–2025

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ

ವಿಷಯ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಭೀಮನಕುಪ್ಪೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.180ರಲ್ಲಿನ 75 ಎಕರೆ 15 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಪೈಕಿ ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ರಚನೆಗಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಪೈಕಿ 10–00 ಎಕರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ಜಂಟಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಡೆಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ರಚನೆಗಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಯುಡಿಡಿ/51/ಎಂಎನ್ಎಕ್ಸ್/2010, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.02.2010.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಹಾಗೂ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಕೆಲವು ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 4043 ಎಕರೆ 27 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಲು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡಿಎ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976 ರ ಕಲಂ.19(1) ರಂತೆ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ ಭೀಮನಕುಪ್ಪೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.180 ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಖರಾಬು ಜಮೀನಿನಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ಸಿಯಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 75 ಎಕರೆ 15 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 10–00 ಎಕರೆ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ರಚನೆಗಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ನಕ್ಷೆ ಮತ್ತು ವರದಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಭೂಮಾಪಕರು, ಗ್ರಾಮ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ರಾಜಸ್ವನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಭೂಮಾಪಕರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಇವರುಗಳ ಜಂಟಿ ಅಳತೆ ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ದಿನಾಂಕ.18.02.2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಭೂಮಾಪಕರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ರಾಜಸ್ವನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಭೂಮಾಪಕರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಇವರುಗಳು ಸದರಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರಿನ ಜಂಟಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಭೀಮನಕುಪ್ಪೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.180ರ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕುದಾರಿಕೆಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಂದಾಯ ದಾಖಲೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಜರಿದ್ದು, ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಕರಿಸಲು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯಂತೆ ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.180, ಭೀಮನಕುಪ್ಪೆ ಗ್ರಾ, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಖಾತೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸದರಿ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಜ್ಞಾಪನ ಪತ್ರ, ನಕ್ಷೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಕಂದಾಯ ದಾಖಲೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿ ಸಹಕರಿಸಲು ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಪತ್ರ ತಲುಪದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನೇ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಪತ್ರವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಪರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Yelahanka Zone, Bellary Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore 560092

EE/ELE/YZ/TN/GN/08/2024-25 Date: 13.02.2025

SHORT TIME TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Executive Engineer (Elect), Yelahanka Zone, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000. from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike/KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any other equivalent central/state government organizations on behalf of the commissioner, BBMP for Electrical work as detailed in the table.

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Annual mainteriance of electrical Equipments and maintenance of Crematorium at Medi Agrahara Lakshmipura in Atturu Ward-No 03 (Call-II) . **Amount Put To Tender :** Rs.18.09 lakhs **EMD: Rs.** 45300/-

Calendar of events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from 14-02-2025. 2) Bids must be submitted online through the KPP Portal on or before 20-02-2025 by 11:00 AM. 3) The bids will be opened on 21-02-2025 at 11:00 AM.

Sd/- Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Yelahanka Zone

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029.
Ph: 080-41106508
email: cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP only)
No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/ Chintamani DC works/1156/2024-25 Dtd: 13.02.2025.
Name of the work : "Removing and replacement of existing UGD network and Providing and laying of new sewer network along with HSC at KGN layout, RK layout, Rajappa Layout, Tapateswara colony, Malapalli and kolar road outfall connected to Gopasandra outfall, desilting & repair works in Chintamani city under D.C works of CMC, Chintamani (LUMPSUM- NO VARIATION)". **Indent No. : KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT297/CALL-2**
For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B),
KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/5036/2024-25

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
O/o The Chief Engineer, Jalabhavan, #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09
Ph No: 0821-2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

Tender Notification

Tender is invited for the work of "Construction of 1.80 MLD capacity SBR type STP for Zone-4 of Arakalagudu town & Providing 150 mm to 200 mm dia sewer main for attending missing links in Zone-4 under Providing UGD system to Arakalagudu town (Lumpsum tender – No Variation)", for the Indent No: KUWSDB/2024-25/WT/WORK_INDENT308, with **A.P.T: 1 1012.61 Lakhs** through KPP Portal.**Further details may be obtained through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S. & D BOARD, Mysuru.
DIPR/DDMYS/1278/KSMCA/903/2024-25

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
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customercare@thehindu.co.in

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MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Circle, Kunjibettu, Udupi - 576102
Ph: 0820 - 2525040 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: SE(E)/UDP/EE(O)/AEE(C)/2024-25/5338 Date: 24.01.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, invites tenders from eligible Bidders/Agencies for the following works in Udupi circle.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Indent No.	Category
1.	Repairs & maintenance and other allied works to EB-2, (AE /JE quarters) & EB-3 & 4 (1 block LM quarters) at Hebri colony, Karkala division	MESCOM/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT262	General

The bids will be received through Electronic (E-tendering) mode only. The details of tender notification can be obtained by logging on to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **15.02.2025.** Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/1385 / 24-25 dt: 13.02.2025
Sd/- Superinteding Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, UDUPI
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

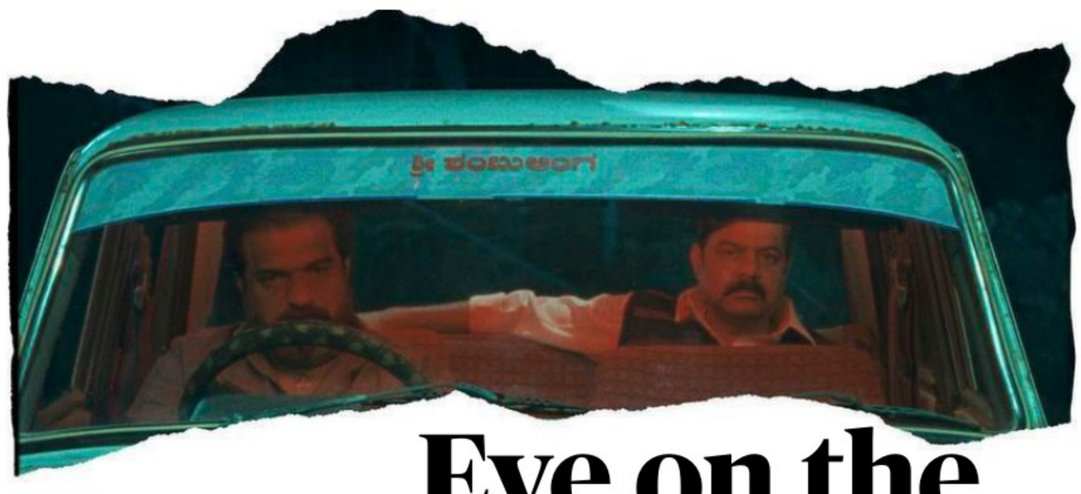
PUBLIC CUM CAUTION NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SRI. CHANDRASHEKAR A,** Son of Late Sri. Ashwathnarayana Reddy, Aged about 57 years, Residing at Anneshwra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural Taluk. Aadhar No: 903951429698, is the absolute owner and in possession of the schedule property.
Whereas the said SRI. CHANDRASHEKAR A has lost the originals of the below mentioned documents, pertaining to the schedule property.
1) DNH-1-04968-2005-06, in Book1, C.D No. DNHD 72, in the Office of the Sub Registrar, Devanahalli, dated 09.01.2006.
2) DNH-1-08588-2012-13, in Book 1, CD No.314, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Devanahalli, dated 19.03.2013.
3) DNH-4-00649/2012-13, in Book 4, CD No.314, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Devanahalli, dated 19.03.2013,
Accordingly, SRI. CHANDRASHEKAR A has reported a police complaint in the jurisdictional Police station on 12.02.2025, however the said lost document could not be traced till now. Any person/s who finds the above said document, may kindly handover the same to the address mentioned below. It is cautioned to the general public that any person/s, Societies, Association/s, Government Authorities, financial institutions, judicial authorities dealing with the said property based on the above mentioned lost original documents, shall proceed at their own risk.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing new Re **Sy No.105/6**, old no.105/1, measuring **1 Acre 25 guntas,** situated at **Hurulugurki Village, Vijaypura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District,** and bounded as follows:
East by : Land bearing Sy No. 105
West by : Land bearing Sy No. 126 belonging to Chandrappa
North by : Land bearing Sy No. 106
South by : Land bearing Sy No. 103

For NAYARKODI ASSOCIATES,
Dhiraj Nayarkodi, Advocate
#62, AECS Layout, Gedalahalli, Sanjaynagar, Bangalore-560094.
Ph: 23411958, Mob: 9886755278
Date : 13-02-2025 Place : Bangalore



Eye on the tiger

Natesh Hegde's *Vagachipani* (Tiger's Pond) is the first Kannada film to have its premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Natesh Hegde, one of the forces behind the resurgence of Kannada parallel cinema, is gearing up for a milestone moment in his career. *Vaghachipani* (Tiger's Pond), his sophomore film, is set to be the first Kannada feature to have its world premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival, which runs from February 13 to 23. "Berlin, Venice, and Cannes are considered the three best festivals in the world. It's a great platform to showcase my film," he says.

Natesh's debut film, *Pedro*, produced by actor-filmmaker Rishab Shetty and starring Raj B Shetty and Natesh's father, Gopal Hegde, was a festival darling, winning Best Film at Pingyao and Nantes Three Continents Festival, besides being screened at BFI London Film Festival, Golden House and IndieLisbona. With *Vagachipani*, Natesh has strengthened the Kannada new wave.

Crime drama

The Berlinale describes *Vagachipani* as a "sharp, simmering crime drama exploring the nefarious confluence of faith, caste, and political power." Set in Mavinakatta in Sirsi, a small town located in the Western Ghats, the film is about a mentally challenged shepherdess living in the house of Prabhu, a feudal businessman, who is on the verge of winning the village council elections. He learns that the shepherdess is pregnant but keeps it under wraps. The film is based on two short stories from Amaresh Nugadoni.

"Set in a hermetic village ruled by fear and tradition, Hegde's film is a game of tigers and cows, a tale of structured oppression and spontaneous resistance around the figure of the mute maid," reads the film's logline on the Berlinale website. Vagachipani is a pond where tigers quench their thirst. The film has the backing of ace filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, producer Ranjan Singh (*Kennedy),* and Singapore-based producer Jeremy Chua.

Going places Natesh Hegde (below); a still from *Vagachipani*.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Exit Rishab, enter Kashyap

Vagachipani began with *Kantara* actor-director Rishab returning to don the producer's role after *Pedro*. However, Rishab, due to his busy schedule, had to step away from the project. "Rishab backed the movie till we completed shooting. These kinds of movies require a lot of nurturing. You have to go to festivals, crack business deals, and secure OTT platforms. That's why he stepped aside, leading to the entry of Kashyap," explains Natesh.

Anurag Kashyap had expressed interest to be associated with Natesh's next project, after being impressed by *Pedro*.*Vagachipani* is a companion piece to *Pedro,* as it rallies behind people ostracised by society. "I don't see them as outcasts, to be honest. I relate to them. For a long time, I was made to believe that films are about certain people and our lives aren't worthy enough to be seen on the big screen. That's the reason why I began making movies. I want to show that a simple person can be a protagonist," says Natesh.

The film stars noted actors Dileesh Pothan and Achyuth Kumar. *Vagachipani* was shot on 16mm film. "The spectral camera drifts through the netherworld, registering its rocky terrain and its murky goings-on, and its unforgettable faces in rapturous 16mm images," says the Berlinale website.

About the choice, Natesh says, "I love shooting on film stock. It feels like handling a living being. It's imperfect and that's its beauty.

"As a filmmaker, you need to be precise while shooting in celluloid."

STEPOUT

Fun and frenzy

The Galleria Mall has an ongoing Z Connect hub, packed with music, dance, and creative experiences that lets audience connect, express, and celebrate. There will be a new offering every weekend with dance performances and DJ nights, interactive art sessions and brand activations. February 14 will see a Valentine's Day special salsa night This festival of fun, which commenced on February 7, will conclude on February 23 with activities organised on an everyday basis.
On at The Galleria Mall, Bengaluru, from 12 pm onwards.

Drama of life

To Be or Not To be, a theatre production inspired by Hamlet's soliloquy and directed by Ranji David, will be staged in the city. The play is an abstract musical with minimal dialogues and traces the journey of three people. The first is about a person born female, who realises her true gender is a male; the second is a woman in the corporate world, and the third is about parents whose children have settled abroad. This mega theatre production comprises 30 actors and 11 technical crew.
On February 16 at ADA Rangamandira. Tickets on BookMyShow.

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M BG-BGE

To be felled: Forest Department officials have identified and numbered the trees to be cut for the proposed Sharavati Pumped Storage Project in parts of Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district and Honnavar taluk of Uttara Kannada district. SATHISH G.T.

Sharavati valley project: Meeting growing power demand vs. keeping forests pristine

While officials argue that the proposed Sharavati Pumped Storage Project does only 'minimal' damage to the forests, environmentalists contend that cutting 'even one tree' in the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot, will be disastrous. **Sathish G.T.** tunes into both sides of the debate

The Sharavati river that takes birth at Ambutirtha in Tirthahalli taluk of Shivamogga district flows for about 130 km through some of the most scenic and ecologically diverse regions of Karnataka in the Western Ghats before reaching the Arabian Sea. It has also been a major source of electricity production in Karnataka. The river water keeps the power-generating stations – Sharavathy Generating Station (1,035 MW), Mahatma Gandhi Hydroelectric Station (139.2 MW), Linganamakki Dam Power House (55 MW), and Gerusoppa Dam Power House (240 MW) – active. For decades, these stations have been contributing millions of units of power to Karnataka at a relatively lower cost than thermal power units. Over the decades, projects along this river have often been a bone of contention between environmentalists and the governments in power.

Now, Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL) has proposed exploiting the pumped storage power potential of the Sharavati valley. The project has been planned utilising the two existing reservoirs in the valley to generate another 2,000 MW.

However, with the project site falling within the pristine forests of the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot, the KPCL has attracted the wrath of environmentalists. Many people in both Shivamogga and the neighbouring Uttara Kannada district have raised serious concerns about the damage the project could cause to the rich flora and fauna and warned the KPCL intensifying their protests if it went ahead with the project.

A pictorial presentation of the pumped storge project in the Sharavati valley. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On the other hand, KPCL officers say the project's impact on the forest will be "minimal" and the agency will take care not to disturb animals, including lion-tailed macaque, a primate whose single largest population is found in the region. The project implementing agency says that as a major part of the construction will take place underground, the damage caused to the forest cover will be minimal.

Recently, the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife gave conditional approval for the project. It asked the KPCL to reduce the number of trees to be cut by 50%. The agency has to devise strategies to minimise the damage and get approval. However, the agency is yet to get clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) and the National Board for Wildlife.

Why this project

The demand for power has been growing. With the decision to supply power to irrigation pump sets during the daytime, the demand peaks around 11 a.m. At present, the peak demand is around 17,500 MW and it is expected to increase gradually. According to the resource adequacy plan for Karnataka, the compound annual growth rate between 2023 and 2031 will be 3.93%. As per the demand projection of Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL), by 2031-32, the State will require 1,20,778 million units, and the peak demand will touch 23,058 MW.

Considering the constant increase in demand, the Karnataka government has to strengthen its grid. Meanwhile, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), which works under the Union Ministry of Energy, assessed the on-river pumped storage hydroelectric potential in India in 2023. Chairperson of the CEA, Ghanshyam Prasad, in his foreword to the study, says, "India is on the path toward clean energy transition, with an aim to produce 50% capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030." The CEA has planned to generate 500 GW of power from renewable sources by 2030. As per the potential study, two projects – Sharavati Pumped Storage Project (PSP) and Varahi PSP (1,500 MW) – were listed from Karnataka.

> Without going through the DPR, how can we challenge the project when they convene a public hearing?
>
> **SHANKAR SHARMA,** an expert who has worked in the power sector in India and abroad

Key site: A view of the Gerusoppa dam in Honnavar taluk. Under the pumped storage project, the Gerusoppa reservoir will be connected to the Talakalale balancing reservoir with a water conductor system to generate power. SATHISH G.T.

Trees to be cut

Forest division and number of trees			
Sagar	Shivamogga Wildlife	Honnavar	Total
745	1,518	13,756	16,041

Land required for project		
Forest area	Non-forest area	Total
54.155 hectares (including 19.98 ha underground)	88.608 hectares	142.763 hectares

What the proposal says

The State government in its 2024-25 Budget proposed to increase its installed power generation capacity from 32,000 MW to 60,000 MW in the next seven years. Of the existing installed capacity, around 15,630 MW is from renewable energy. However, power generation through solar panels and windmills depends on weather conditions. Hence the KPCL has proposed to take up the PSP in the Sharavati valley to manage the peak-hour demand.

The Sharavati valley has Linganamakki, Gerusoppa, and Talakalale dams. Linganamakki is the major reservoir with the capacity to store 151 tmcft of water. Talakalale reservoir acts as a balancing reservoir, where the water level is maintained to ensure the power generation in the Sharavathy Generating Station is not disrupted. Under the PSP, the plan is to connect Gerusoppa and Talakalale reservoirs with a water conductor system, with a 7-km-long tunnel. When there is excess power, water will be lifted from the lower reservoir – Gerusoppa – to the upper reservoir (Talakalale). When there is a high demand for power, water will be used to generate power and contribute to the grid. The KPCL has proposed to construct a power station with eight units, each of 250 MW capacity, with reversible Francis pump turbines.

The project will be spread over Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada districts. The forest area required for the project falls under Sagar division, Shivamogga Wildlife Division, and Honnavar division. The total land required is 142.764 hectares, including 54.155 hectares of forest area.

Besides that, 88.608 hectares of non-forestland is required for the project. The KPCL approached the MoEF & CC for forest clearance, as per the Forest Conservation Act, in November 2023. It sought the approval of the wildlife board in November 2023. The CEA cleared it in September 2024 and the State wildlife board gave conditional approval in January 2025.

KPCL officials have estimated the project cost at ₹8,644 crore. The cost per MW will be ₹5.12 crore. KPCL officials say a majority of the estimated funds will be spent on tunnel work, power station machinery, and turbines. They say the cost of producing hydroelectric energy is lower than other methods – thermal, solar or wind.

The transmission lines in the Sharavati valley need to be upgraded for the pumped storage project which is proposed to generate 2,000 MW. SATHISH G.T.

Opposition

However, many environmentalists have opposed the project on the grounds that it affects the pristine forests. The project area is a core part of the Sharavathi Lion-Tailed Macaque (LTM) Wildlife Sanctuary. As per the LTM census of 2022-23, the sanctuary is a habitat for the single largest population of 730 individuals, spread over 41 groups. Tree-cutting for the project will fragment the habitat and damage the tree canopy, essential for the movement of LTM, they say. Apart from LTM, other animals found in the area are leopards, wild dogs, wild boars, sloth bears, Indian mongooses, and pangolins.

Among the trees identified for cutting, the highest is in the Honnavar division. Officers have recorded each species and girth of each tree to be cut.

Interestingly, the officials, in their proposal to the MoEF & CC seeking clearance, noted that the proposal may adversely affect the forest, flora, and fauna, particularly the endemic, rare, threatened, and endangered species. The formation of new roads and other above-ground structures will affect the canopy, leading to fragmentation of the LTM habitat. However, the divisional forest officers forwarded the proposal to higher officials with a recommendation to take decisions at a higher level.

The State wildlife board took objections to the number of trees being cut. The board, headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, gave conditional approval, asking the KPCL to reduce the number of trees to be cut from 16,041 to between 7,000 and 8,000.

Even so, environmentalists have raised significant questions about the project. They are backed by experts, including Shankar Sharma who has worked in the power sector in India and abroad for decades. Sharma has written to the KPCL, the Ministers for Forest and Energy, and the Chief Minister many times, raising questions about the project's necessity. One of his main objections is that the project will not add power to the State grid. Instead, it will increase the load on the grid. "The power required to pump water is more than what will be generated. There will be a loss of 24% of energy. The KPCL should think of alternative systems, including battery energy storage systems (BESS)," he says.

People like Sharma and Akhilesh Chippali from Sagar are opposed to cutting "even one tree" in the highly sensitive forests of the Western Ghats. Chippali says, "We are mobilising people in Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada districts by spreading awareness on the impacts of the project. If necessary, we will move the court as well."

Another complaint from environmentalists is that the KPCL is not maintaining transparency. Even after repeated appeals and applications through the Right to Information Act, the agency has not shared the detailed project report (DPR), they say. "Without going through the DPR, how can we challenge the project when they convene a public hearing?" asks Sharma.

Numbers not clear

The Divisional Forest Officers of Honnavar, Sagar, and Shivamogga Wildlife have counted the trees to be cut as per the project layout. KPCL officials entrusted with the responsibility of reducing the number of trees say they can "somehow manage" to reduce the count to 10,000 but not below that. "We have worked out the layout plan considering the place required to move machinery and vehicles for project execution. On the ground, we assessed that we could avoid cutting many trees on the edge of our route. Thus, we can bring down the number substantially," says a senior official. Besides that, the officials are contemplating changing the plan for a fresh road required to connect to the project site from the Gerusoppa dam.

The environmentalists argue that the officials are silent about the number of trees to be cut to draw or upgrade the existing transmission lines. The transmission lines have to be upgraded to draw power from the project. The KPCL has not assessed the number of trees to be cut for this purpose.

"As the upgradation will be on the existing transmission lines, there will be minimum damage to the forest. However, the KPTCL, entrusted with the responsibility of transmission of power, will handle it," an official says.

KPCL officials maintain that they will not refute the remarks that the project will damage the forest cover. However, they argue the damage caused will be "minimal". By and large, the project layout has been designed keeping the existing roads in mind, they say. The existing 3.5-m-wide roads will be widened by another 2 m to allow the movement of men and machinery.

They too say there are alternative methods, including the BESS, to generate power. The battery storage, however, lasts only for a couple of hours and cannot be compared with the pumped storage project. Besides that, affordability is a major issue, they say. The KPCL has been open to new technologies and is ready to adapt them considering financial viability. "However, pumped storage plants have been considered a time-tested and reliable method, which the Central Electricity Authority has been pushing for," says the official.

Currently, work on the design of the electromechanical system is on but work on the ground will begin only after all the mandatory clearances are received from the Centre.

Advertiser's Feature

Shimmering SPARKLES

Lab-Grown Diamonds: A New Era of Luxury Jewellery

Imagine owning a diamond that's not only breathtakingly beautiful but also sustainable, affordable, and conflict-free. Sounds too good to be true? Welcome to the world of lab-grown diamonds!

These stunning diamonds are redefining the concept of luxury in the jewelry world. Created in specialized labs using advanced technology, lab-grown diamonds are identical to naturally mined diamonds in every way – chemically, physically, and visually.

A Brief History of Lab-Grown Diamonds

The first lab-grown diamonds were developed in the 1950s, but it wasn't until the 2000s that technology advanced enough to produce high-quality diamonds suitable for fine jewelry.

Today, lab-grown diamonds are gaining widespread appeal for their sustainability, affordability, and ethical production methods.

How Lab-Grown Diamonds are Made

Lab-grown diamonds are crafted using two main techniques:

1. HPHT (High-Pressure High-Temperature): This method simulates the intense pressure and heat conditions under which natural diamonds form, causing a diamond seed to grow.

2. CVD (Chemical Vapor Deposition): In this method, carbon atoms are deposited onto a diamond seed within a chamber, gradually forming a diamond crystal layer by layer.

Why Choose Lab-Grown Diamonds?

Lab-grown diamonds offer several key benefits that make them a smart and stylish choice:

1. Sustainability: Lab-grown diamonds have a significantly lower environmental impact than traditional mining, using minimal land, energy, and water.

2. Affordability: They're usually 20-40% more affordable than mined diamonds, offering luxury and beauty without the hefty price tag.

3. Conflict-Free: Lab-grown diamonds are produced in controlled environments, ensuring they're entirely free from the ethical issues tied to conflict or "blood" diamonds.

4. Customizable: Lab-grown diamonds can be grown to meet precise specifications, ensuring consistency and high quality.

Trusted Certification

Lab-grown diamonds are certified by top gemological institutions such as GIA and IGI, providing buyers with confidence in the diamond's authenticity, quality, and origin.

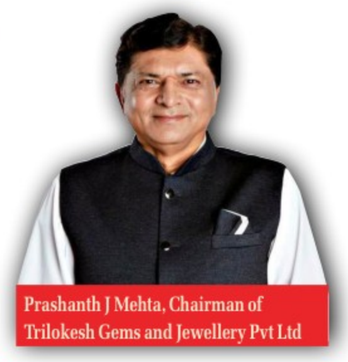
The Future of Lab-Grown Diamonds

As more consumers prioritize sustainability and ethical sourcing, lab-grown diamonds are becoming a major trend in the luxury jewelry market. With continuous advancements in technology, lab-grown diamonds are expected to dominate a larger share of the market and be featured more prominently in high-end collections.

The Choice is Yours

Lab-grown diamonds are transforming the jewelry market with their sustainable, ethical, and affordable qualities. Ultimately, the decision between lab-grown and mined diamonds depends on your personal values and preferences. Whether you prioritize the environmental and ethical benefits of lab-grown diamonds or the rarity and tradition of natural diamonds, there's a beautiful diamond out there waiting for you.

Tri - Dia



Prashanth J Mehta, Chairman of Trilokesh Gems and Jewellery Pvt Ltd

What motivated you to start Tria Dia Diamonds, and how do lab-grown diamonds compare to natural ones in terms of quality and market appeal?

I started Tria Dia Diamonds because I saw an opportunity to disrupt the traditional diamond industry with a more sustainable and ethical alternative. Lab-grown diamonds are physically, chemically, and optically identical to mined diamonds. The only difference is their origin. In terms of market appeal, lab-grown diamonds offer the same beauty and brilliance at a more accessible price point, which resonates particularly well with environmentally conscious consumers.

• Our flagship store is at Nehru Circle, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru.

• The brand's philosophy, "Be Royal,"

• Feature exclusive collections such as Eternal Vows, Majestic Moments, LuxurySolitaire, Noble Affairs, and Royal Essentials

• Prashant J. Mehta, Chairman of Trilokesh GEMS and Jewellery Pvt Ltd(TGJPL), co-founder of a Fortune 500 company, and Director of the Lab-Grown Diamond and Jewellery Promotion Council of India.

• Within a span of 12 months TGJPL(Trilokesh Gems and Jewellery Pvt Ltd.) has achieved the remarkable feat of setting up India's only integrated Lab Grown Diamond Entity.

• Has a vision to setup 50 stores across India in the coming 24 months giving it a national footprint.

Can you explain the environmental and ethical benefits of lab-grown diamonds and how Tria Dia ensures sustainability in its production processes?

The environmental benefits are significant. Lab-grown diamonds eliminate the destructive mining practices that can devastate ecosystems. They also require significantly less energy and water to produce compared to mined diamonds. Ethically, they remove the risk of conflict diamonds and ensure fair labor practices. We are committed to transparency and continuous improvement in our sustainability practices.

• Eliminate the destructive mining practices

• Require significantly less energy and water to produce

• Ensure fair labor practices.

What trends have you noticed in consumer demand for lab-grown diamonds, and what challenges or misconceptions do you face in educating customers?

One challenge is overcoming the misconception whether lab-grown diamonds are 'real'? We emphasize that they are real diamonds with the same properties as mined diamonds. We focus on providing clear information about the science, sustainability, and value of lab-grown diamonds through our website, marketing materials, and personal interactions with customers.

Consumer Demand :

1. We're seeing growing demand, especially among millennials and Gen Z, who value sustainability and affordability.

2. Consumers are also increasingly interested in larger stones and unique cuts, which lab-grown diamonds make more accessible.

How has technology impacted the quality and production of lab-grown diamonds, and what recent innovations excite you in this space?

Technology is at the heart of the lab-grown diamond industry. Advanced techniques like High-Pressure/High-Temperature(HPHT) and Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) allow us to precisely control the growth process, resulting in diamonds of exceptional quality and clarity. I'm particularly excited about innovations like advancements in diamond-cutting techniques to optimize brilliance or new methods for producing coloured lab-grown diamonds.

What are your long-term goals for Tria Dia Diamonds, and how do you see the lab-grown diamond market evolving in the coming years?

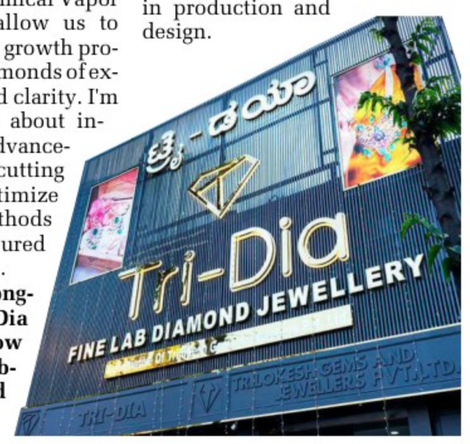
I believe the lab-grown diamond market will continue to grow rapidly as consumers become more aware of the benefits and as production costs decrease. Eventually, I foresee lab-grown diamonds and gems becoming the dominant choice for consumers, driving a more ethical and sustainable future for the diamond industry.

• Long term goal for Tri-Dia

Our long-term goal is to become a leading brand in the lab-grown diamond industry, known for our quality, sustainability, and customer service.

• Future Plans for Tri-Dia

We plan to expand our product line, explore new markets, expand into franchise business models and continue to innovate in production and design.



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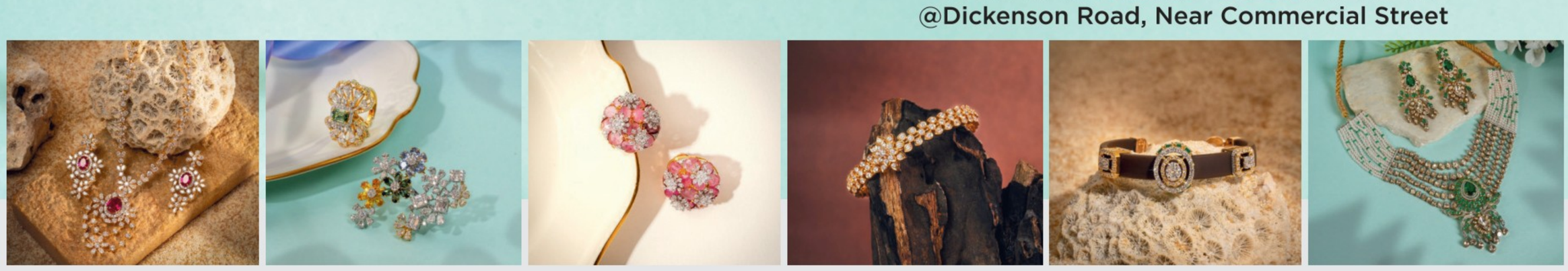

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Shared understanding

The Modi visit to France held broader strategic implications

During his visit to France this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that India and France could be a force for "global transformation". This statement carried significant geopolitical context for both him and his host, French President Emmanuel Macron. The visit took place just before Mr. Modi's scheduled trip to Washington, where the Trump administration's unpredictability has reshaped global dynamics. This was Mr. Modi's sixth visit to France as Prime Minister, while Mr. Macron has travelled to India three times, fostering their visible rapport. In Paris, they co-chaired the AI Action Summit, before travelling to Marseille. There, they inaugurated a new Indian consulate, visited a multilateral thermonuclear reactor project, and toured a shipping company. Their discussions focused on strengthening the defence partnership, reviewing deals on missiles, helicopter and jet engines. India also offered Indian-made rocket launchers. Days after the Modi government announced amendments to India's nuclear liability laws, both countries agreed to develop small modular reactors and advance the long-stalled civil nuclear deal. The leaders discussed global conflicts, including those in Ukraine and Gaza. They also reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, an initiative in which both countries play a key role that is contingent on West Asian stability. Mr. Macron referred to India and France as two great powers that are closely aligned, emphasising that while they seek stronger engagement with the U.S. and China, neither wishes to be dependent on any one power.

Beyond bilateral ties, Mr. Modi's visit had broader strategic implications. The leaders addressed global challenges such as climate change, trade disruptions, and the evolving risks posed by AI. However, a key issue both sides remained discreet about was on how to navigate relations with Washington. While both leaders seek to maintain positive ties with Mr. Trump, they are wary of his unpredictable policies, including his approach to tariffs, economic measures, and his unilateral stance on global conflicts. Mr. Macron, in an interview after Mr. Modi's departure, did not hold back in criticising U.S. policy on Gaza, asserting that what is needed there is a humanitarian operation, not a "real-estate operation". Mr. Trump's independent dealings with Russia and China, often made without consulting key allies in Europe or the Indo-Pacific, and his disregard for the multilateral order, could become a longer-term subject of discussion between Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron. In the months ahead, India and France will likely find greater alignment in their shared understanding of global challenges and their pursuit of collaborative solutions.

Engaging Russia

Trump's overtures to Putin have spurred both hopes and fears

President Donald Trump has opened the door to negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin over ending the war in Ukraine, in equal measure spurring hopes for peace and fears that Moscow would use the opportunity to manipulate the situation to its advantage against a beleaguered Kyiv. While Mr. Trump wrote on social media that on the 90-minute call both leaders concurred on their desire to "stop the millions of deaths taking place...," and that Washington and Moscow would "work together, very closely", Russia noted that Mr. Putin had "expressed readiness to receive American officials in Russia regarding areas of mutual interest, including, of course, the topic of Ukrainian settlement". Mr. Trump's call, including specifics on a ceasefire and the possibility of their meet in Saudi Arabia, represents a break from the status quo, which, since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, has seen the Kremlin face diplomatic isolation and crippling western/NATO sanctions. Although Mr. Trump's predecessor, Joe Biden, had in this context made his administration's view on Mr. Putin clear when he described the Russian President as "murderous dictator" and a "pure thug", Mr. Trump had promised, even during the campaign leading to the 2024 presidential election, that he would end the war within "24 hours" after being sworn into office.

On the one hand, if Mr. Trump's efforts come to fruition, it would mark a breakthrough in terms of bringing Mr. Putin to the negotiating table, an outcome that has so far appeared impossible, given Moscow's resolve to press on with its war plans. On the other, the terms of the negotiation hinted at so far by the Trump administration make it likely that Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will have to accept an unpalatable outcome. This appears inevitable given that U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth suggested that no U.S. troops would be committed to Ukraine in any future security arrangement, that Ukraine would not be invited to join NATO, and that the option of Ukraine reverting to pre-2014 borders, prior to Russia annexing Crimea, would be virtually ruled out. Indeed, Mr. Zelenskyy would not be wrong to assume that the U.S.'s promise to sustain NATO support for Ukraine "for as long as it takes" has been unequivocally betrayed by the Trump administration's stance on the subject. This denouement is likely to have a profound – and damaging – impact on the security and economy of not only Ukraine but also of the EU, given that the White House has de facto made Russian territorial aggression a European problem, and sees Mr. Putin as a less concerning threat than undocumented migration and trade deficits.

The problematic globalisation of medical education

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Strange things are going on worldwide in the area of medical education. On the one hand, there appears to be a shortage of medical doctors, while at the same time governments, and in many cases also medical doctors themselves, oppose increased access to the study of medicine. As a result, there has been an increase in international mobility of medical students from high-, mid- and low-income countries. While once medical education was international, now it is nationally regulated, but at the same time becoming internationalised. Because of national and global health needs, it is worth examining this particular global medical environment.

No one knows how many international students are studying in medical schools outside their home countries, but a conservative estimate might put the number to be more than 2,00,000 – many of them in institutions and countries with questionable quality of medical preparation. To give an indication, Ukraine, before the Russian invasion, had 24,000 medical students from abroad, mainly, but not exclusively, from India.

The India crisis

India is an interesting example. The country has a severe shortage of doctors. The demand for places in medical colleges is considerable and, as a result, competition for places is intense. Annually, approximately 2.3 million students sit for the national medical school entry examination, but only one in around 22 successful candidates is able to enter the country's 700-plus medical colleges.

The fierce competition for medical seats in India has compelled many students to explore opportunities abroad. It is estimated that more than 20,000 Indian medical students go abroad to study. With limited government medical seats and high tuition fees in private institutions, studying medicine abroad has emerged as an "affordable" and practical alternative for Indian aspirants. Countries such as Russia, pre-war Ukraine, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, China, Mauritius, and Nepal have become attractive destinations.

Interestingly, some of the institutions in foreign countries are controlled by Indians. One such institution is the Manipal College of Medical Sciences in neighbouring Nepal, the country's first private medical college which was established in 1994. It is operated by the Manipal Education and Medical Group (MEMG), Bengaluru. The American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine, a Caribbean medical school, is also a division of Manipal. This reflects a broader strategy of Indian education groups expanding their footprint overseas to meet the growing demand from Indian students.

> The phenomenon of foreign medical education is widespread, almost completely unknown, and unregulated

However, studying medicine abroad comes with its own challenges, particularly for those who wish to practise in India. Indian students who complete their programmes from foreign institutions must clear the national licensing examination to qualify for medical practice in India. They are also required to complete a medical internship upon their return. Similarly, Indians wishing to practise medicine in other countries must satisfy licensing and other requirements of those countries – and one can find Indian doctors throughout the world. This illustrates that governments are aware of the varying standards of medical education around the world.

In a significant announcement during the Union Budget speech in February 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the government's achievements in medical education. She stated that the government had successfully added nearly 1.1 lakh undergraduate and postgraduate medical education seats over the past decade, an increase of 130%. She also revealed plans for further expansion in the medical education sector by announcing that an additional 10,000 seats would be introduced in medical colleges and hospitals in 2026. This initiative is part of a broader five-year goal to add 75,000 new seats, aimed at addressing the growing demand for qualified medical professionals.

Not just a Global South phenomenon

The case of medical education in India illustrates the problematic phenomenon of students leaving the Global South, in particular South Asia and Africa, to study medicine in other mid-income countries – and often to remain abroad. But the trend is broader.

For many years, students from western countries such as France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway, have been going to neighbouring countries for their medical studies, due to a lack of access at home. Romania, where medical study is provided in French, Hungary, and Poland are common host countries. Hungary and Poland also receive medical students from the United States. Thousands of U.S. students study medicine in these two countries, as well as in Ireland, the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom.

Medical programmes in central and eastern Europe, as well as in Central Asia, cater to diaspora students and teach in English. The Medical University of Warsaw, for instance, has medical study programmes in both Polish and English. Currently, due to a lack of national funding for places at their home universities, about 3,000 Norwegian medical students receive scholarships to study abroad, mainly in central and eastern Europe.

In other words, the phenomenon of foreign medical education is widespread, almost completely unknown, and unregulated. Where entire medical schools are devoted to international enrolments, they are almost exclusively for-profit institutions. Medical schools established in non-English speaking environments, such as Poland and Ukraine, offer English-medium medical curricula to attract high-fee-paying international students.

Balancing demand and quality concerns

As the recent Budget speech shows, the government is starting to see the problem, but solutions are expensive and meet opposition from inside the medical establishment, which fears a deterioration of their privileges and elite status. Yet, with an aging population, the need for quality medical doctors will only increase. The growing number of students looking for medical education abroad illustrates a potential, but there is an overall lack of quality control. More attention is needed on this key challenge.

China's dam project opens the floodgates of concern

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The planned construction by China, of a massive hydroelectric dam on the lower section of the upper stream of the Yarlung Zangbo river in Tibet, has become a matter of concern for India due to its potential impact on the local environment and spillover, the flow of water downstream, and bilateral relations. Originating in Tibet, the Yarlung Zangbo is called the Brahmaputra after it reaches the Indian State of Assam where it meets its important tributaries. In India's Arunachal Pradesh, it is called the Siang.

The Brahmaputra is a part of the everyday life of millions of people from India's northeastern States and Bangladesh. China's decision to plan a dam on the Yarlung Zangbo is a part of its broader strategy to transition from coal to renewable energy sources, particularly hydroelectric power. As outlined in its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), China aims to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. While this transition is commendable, the reliance on large-scale hydroelectric projects raises significant concerns. While the dam project aligns with China's ambitious energy transition goals, its serious implications for India cannot be understated.

The legal dimensions

The construction of the dam raises critical legal issues under international water law. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (UN Watercourses Convention) 1997 emphasises the principles of equitable and reasonable utilisation, the obligation to prevent significant harm, and the duty to cooperate. These principles are essential in ensuring that shared water resources are managed sustainably and equitably.

However, China and India are not signatories to the UN Watercourses Convention. Nor do they adhere to a robust framework of domestic laws governing transboundary rivers. The official documents on water published by the Chinese government maintain that Beijing is a benevolent upper riparian that follows: first, the principle of international cooperation; second, the principle of people orientation; third, the principle of sharing rights and obligations, and fourth, the principle of equal emphasis on development and protection.

> While the project aligns with China's ambitious energy transition goals, it has serious implications for India, which cannot be understated

However, many of China's lower riparian states accuse it for using water as a ' powerful tool'. India, which is one of the lower riparian states, depends on rivers that originate in Tibet for one-third of its river water supply. Due to the increasing securitisation of water and the rise of assertive military nationalism, a number of Indian political analysts say that China poses a serious water threat to India, making it vulnerable to unilateral actions. India has regularly expressed its concerns about the projects on the transboundary rivers. The memoranda of understanding between India and China on the sharing of water data about the Sutlej and Brahmaputra rivers have expired now. With ties improving between the two countries, there is a possibility that the MoUs could also be renewed. There is an expert level mechanism (ELM) to deal with water-related matters that meets regularly. In the absence of a concrete agreement, the ELM's role in managing water-related matters between India and China is significant.

Significant environmental concerns

The proposed dam is being constructed in one of the world's most seismically active regions. The risk of earthquakes poses a significant threat to the stability of the structure, with the possibility of catastrophic consequences for both upstream and downstream areas. For instance, the earthquake in Tibet in January 2025 led to the death of more than 120 people while over 150 were injured. Additionally, the construction of such a massive dam disrupts river ecosystems, alters sediment flow, and threatens biodiversity in the river basin region. The potential environmental damage extends to the loss of habitats for aquatic and terrestrial species and increased riverbank erosion. Such a dam would also have an impact on Bangladesh which the Brahmaputra enters from India. However, Bangladesh has not expressed any serious concerns over the hydroproject. The main reason is the growing divide between Dhaka and New Delhi ever since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in August 2024 and the level of ties Bangladesh has with China.

A 'water alliance' and hurdles

But this is an issue that will not just affect Bangladesh. Water-related activities in Tibet will affect the other lower riparian South Asian states such as Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan. To deal with the situation, it is better to have a water negotiation plan for the region.

However, given the political situation in South Asia, it is tough to imagine a water alliance between the countries receiving water from Tibet. An absence of an active regional organisation halts South Asia from developing a collective strategy to manage transboundary rivers and conduct negotiations with the upper riparian country. Bilateral ties between India and many of its neighbouring countries are not in good shape and see fluctuations frequently.

The water issue between India and China cannot be de-linked from their day-to-day political relations because of the influence of politics on water-related decisions.

The recent India-China diplomatic engagements raise hopes for renewing lapsed MoUs and improving trust through information-sharing on Tibet-origin rivers.

China has reiterated that the dam on the Yarlung Zangbo will not affect water flow to India. However, New Delhi has expressed its concerns. To clear any doubts or concerns that the lower riparian states might have, the ELM would be a better platform.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Project near border

The issue raised by the Congress party ("Congress slams Centre over Adani project near border", February 13) is likely to be dismissed by a large section of the public as yet another example of the periodic Adani baiting indulged in by the Opposition parties. However, the subterfuge used by the government to hand over the land and project to the private party is intriguing. That the rules governing construction near the border were relaxed or bent is shocking. The issue smacks of favouritism and raises serious security concerns along the Pakistan border. The government has to come clean.

Manohar Alembath,
Kannur, Kerala

The investigation by *The Guardian* only goes to reinforce the perception by some that the rules can be changed even if it means making compromises as far as national security is concerned, for commercial benefits. This is disturbing. While the government of the day has allowed this private group a near monopoly in several critical infrastructure sectors, the relaxation of military protocols which can potentially compromise national security is a move that must be resisted.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

Judge on freebies

The days when political parties fought elections on policies and ideologies have long passed. It is now the age of freebies and corresponding political outbidding (Inside pages, "Because of freebies, people don't want to work: SC judge", February 13). When will our politicians become selfless and think of putting in place opportunities for people to thrive by working?

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

Ragging again

The torture that some first-year students experienced at the Government College of Nursing in Kottayam, Kerala, in the name of ragging was terrible to read (February 13). It is appalling that the authorities can feign ignorance. The brutality that first year students undergo in the name of "ragging" has been a recurring problem in Kerala and in many parts of India. The government must end cruelty on campuses.

Kurian Mathew,
Kochi

Medical college staff woes

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has not addressed the issue of pay anomalies for hundreds of non-gazetted employees of five new government medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir. The Cabinet, *vide* its order number 175/11/2017 dated October 3, 2017, had sanctioned 3,375 posts for the establishment of the five colleges — 675 each for Kathua, Rajouri, Doda, Baramulla and Anantnag. Gazetted employees of the Health and Medical Education Department face similar issues.

The pay scales, nomenclature and even recruitment rules at the government medical colleges in Udhampur and Handwara differ from these five colleges. Employees are worried that without service rules, they will be deprived of time-bound promotions. The framing of rules for all medical colleges, especially new medical colleges in the Union Territory, must be done as soon as possible.

Vishav Mohan Sharma,
Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir

Tuning in

World Radio Day (February 13) has passed but it was an occasion to recollect those golden days when radio sets and radio programmes filled our homes and hearts with joy. There was hardly any house that did not have a Bush, Murphy, Philips, or Nelco radio set — some of the brands that ruled the radio market. One wonders whether today's AI generation would even know about the magic that radio offered.

The average Indian and Akashvani were inseparable. But how can one forget the programming by Radio Ceylon? One also had RJs. There was Ameen Sayani who still has no match.

M. Pradyu,
Thalikavu, Kannur, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Is appointing ad-hoc judges a viable means to reduce backlog?

PARLEY

Justice Rajeev Shakdher

Former Chief Justice of the Himachal High Court

Shadan Farasat

Senior Advocate based in Delhi

The Supreme Court on January 30, 2025, permitted High Courts to appoint retired judges on an ad-hoc basis to address the mounting backlog of cases. However, these judges were authorised to hear only criminal appeals as part of a bench led by a sitting judge. Is the ad-hoc appointment of judges a viable remedy for reducing pendency? Justice Rajeev Shakdher and Shadan Farasat discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Aaratrika Bhaumik**. Edited excerpts:

Is appointing ad-hoc judges a viable remedy for reducing pendency?

Rajeev Shakdher: The move is commendable. The Supreme Court first endorsed the appointment of ad-hoc judges in its 2021 ruling in *Lok Prahari v. Union of India*, though such a measure should have been introduced even earlier. As of January 25, 2025, High Courts were burdened with a staggering backlog of 62 lakh cases.

However, with only three recorded instances of such appointments in the past, the practice has failed to gain traction. Now that the Supreme Court has revisited the issue, there is renewed hope for the implementation of concrete and lasting reforms.

Shadan Farasat: The Constitution allows for appointing ad-hoc judges in both the Supreme Court and High Courts for a reason. However, my concern is that these appointments require presidential approval, making government cooperation crucial. While the judiciary may propose candidates, their appointment ultimately depends on the executive's willingness to act. Since ad-hoc judges are not typically assigned politically sensitive cases, I am hopeful that the government will approve these appointments without delay.

Is it more prudent to first address challenges in the regular judicial appointment process?

SF: In our 75-year constitutional history, no policy measure has been introduced to address the docket crisis systematically. We will have to wait and see how this initiative unfolds. However, the government's handling of regular judicial appointments remains a concern, with several deserving judges either overlooked for elevation to the Supreme Court or appointed as High Court Chief Justices far too late. This issue requires urgent redress.

RS: The appointment of ad-hoc judges is unlikely to interfere with the regular judicial appointment process, as both operate independently. Ultimately, it is the common litigants who bear the brunt of judicial delays. From personal experience, no matter how much effort one exerts, there is rarely enough time to adjudicate each case satisfactorily.

A view of the Madras High Court in Chennai. K. PICHUMANI

Expediting criminal appeals would also benefit the government by reducing the financial strain of maintaining overcrowded jails filled with undertrials. However, for this measure to be truly effective, Chief Justices must take a proactive role. The real challenge lies in identifying a cohort of candidates with impeccable integrity and strong technical expertise. Only once this hurdle is overcome does the government's role come into play.

The Supreme Court has previously found the ad-hoc appointment process cumbersome. Are any reforms needed?

RS: To ensure these appointments achieve their intended purpose, the process must be simplified. The Chief Justice of the relevant High Court should directly recommend a candidate to the Supreme Court collegium after securing their consent, after which the collegium can forward its recommendation to the government. The *Lok Prahari* verdict also sets a three-month timeline for completing the process.

It may be prudent for the Chief Justice to secure some form of pre-approval from the Centre before making a recommendation. However, subjecting ad-hoc appointees to an Intelligence Bureau clearance would be unnecessary and counterproductive. As retired judges, they may be discouraged by such scrutiny, and the added procedural hurdle would only lead to further delays.

SF: Ad-hoc appointments should follow a summary process. As retired judges, they have already undergone rigorous vetting – not just by the government but also by the legal fraternity. Therefore, their appointments should be largely uncontroversial.

> To ensure these appointments achieve their intended purpose, the process must be simplified. The Chief Justice of the relevant High Court should directly recommend a candidate to the Supreme Court collegium after securing their consent, after which the collegium can forward its recommendation to the government.
> JUSTICE RAJEEV SHAKDHER

Could these appointments hinder the career progression of senior judges or those in the district judiciary?

SF: No, they will not. Ad-hoc judges serve for a limited term of two to three years and do not compete with sitting judges. Their appointment does not affect the seniority of High Court judges for elevation as Chief Justices or to the Supreme Court. It also in no way impacts promotions within the district judiciary.

RS: Article 224A of the Constitution clearly states that while ad-hoc judges exercise the same judicial authority as sitting judges, they cannot be deemed to be a judge of that High Court. Since they are not eligible for elevation, their appointment does not impact other sitting judges. These appointments also do not affect the elevation of service judges in the district judiciary. Most High Courts are already functioning below their sanctioned strength. As of February 1, 2025, there were 367 vacancies against a sanctioned strength of 1,122 judges.

Indian courts already lack basic amenities. Will these appointments put additional strain on the existing judicial infrastructure?

RS: A judge cannot effectively perform judicial duties without essential personnel – stenographers, private secretaries, and court masters. The government must guarantee these resources. It could perhaps consider assigning more law researchers to ad-hoc judges, given their primary focus on judicial work rather than administration. This should not pose a major hurdle. If the government is truly committed to reducing arrears, it must allocate the necessary budget for this greater cause.

SF: As Justice Shakhdher pointed out, the key issue is the executive's willingness to cooperate. Most High Courts already have ample space that could be repurposed into additional courtrooms. While some personnel may need to be reassigned or appointed on an ad-hoc basis, these are logistical challenges that can be easily addressed.

Justice Shakdher, does the system adequately incentivise meritorious judges to return to the Bench? Or would most prefer arbitration or independent practice instead?

RS: You are right. Persuading judges to return to the system will be challenging. Much will depend on the perks and privileges offered. Financially, arbitration and independent practice are far more lucrative alternatives. In fact, I hear the Supreme Court is struggling to find suitable candidates for tribunal vacancies. Even appointing senior lawyers as ad-hoc judges presents a major hurdle: after serving the stipulated term, they are barred from practising in the same High Court. This forces them to relocate to another High Court or limit their practice to the Supreme Court, which is difficult for those based outside Delhi.

Do such appointments pose any concerns related to judicial independence?

SF: In my view, judicial independence is ultimately a state of mind. The mere fact that a judge was practising at the bar until recently and may return to it in the near future does not necessarily undermine their independence. Traditionally, judges were expected to remain isolated from society and the bar, but that notion has evolved – arguably for the better. Social interactions do not inherently compromise judicial independence. One can meet someone socially one day and face them in court the next, yet still adjudicate based solely on the merits of the case.

RS: If the right candidates are chosen, this should not be a problem. A judicial appointment comes with the legitimate expectation of rising through the ranks. However, the system does not always reward the most hard-working or capable judges, leading to dissatisfaction. With ad-hoc appointments, this concern does not arise. There is no aspiration for higher ranks – one serves for a limited period, fulfils their role, and moves on.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Keeping all judgment aside

Journalists have to be sensitive to all the parties involved in a story and be open to interacting with them to understand their version

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

EMMANUEL YOGINI

I spoke to Vikas Walkar for the first time when every journalist wanted an exclusive interview with him. Walkar was the father of Shraddha Walkar, who had been brutally murdered, allegedly by her live-in partner, in 2022. Her body had been chopped and stuffed into bags, which were stored in a refrigerator in their apartment in Delhi. The case had sent shock waves across the country.

Walkar told me that news anchors had been hounding him. Some had even offered to fly him to Delhi and arrange for his accommodation at a posh hotel. But he was not comfortable in front of the camera, he told me.

This was a month after Shraddha's body parts were found. I travelled to Vasai, where he lived, on the outskirts of Mumbai. He sat on a sofa, wondering if he wanted to speak on camera. It took me nearly an hour to convince him to agree to an interview. His hesitation was natural. He was shocked and upset. He did not want me to ask questions regarding certain sensitive subjects or anything that would upset him. I assured him that I would be careful while doing the interview and not ask him difficult questions. I told him that I could only imagine what he must be going through as a father.

Shraddha and her live-in partner belonged to different religions. Walkar had met the then Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra along with a leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and had demanded action in inter-faith marriages. The State government had announced that it would monitor inter-faith marriages and this had given him a sense of vindication.

There are many moral dilemmas that journalists face while doing such stories. We have to be sensitive to all the parties involved and be open to interacting with them to understand their version. We have to be mindful of the fact that a police investigation is still under way. We have to keep our ears to the ground and not get affected by all the speculation and gossip in the air about the people in the story. We have to be sensitive, yet indifferent.

Especially in cases such as this, it was important not to be judgmental. As a parent, I remember being upset that Shraddha had chosen to bear the abuse instead of opening up to her family and coming back home. Yet, when I spoke with Walkar, I had to accept and understand the fact that he was a man with his own set of ideas; that an interfaith marriage was a strict no-no for him; and that he was not close to his daughter and had not even known when she had moved cities. Walkar said that he had been waiting for his daughter to tell him that all was not well with her. "I would have brought her home had she told me what she was going through," he told me.

He said he had also felt wronged by the system. He told me that the police should have been serious when he went to register a complaint about his daughter. "They asked me why I could not control my own daughter and told me that I should search for her by myself," he said.

Earlier this week, news trickled in that Walkar had passed away. I once again thought of all the 'ifs' that had earlier crossed my mind. Would Shraddha be alive had her father supported her? Would Shraddha be alive had the police looked into Walkar's complaint seriously? Would she be alive had the man's family done something when Shraddha had opened up to his mother? But these are hypothetical questions. The fact is Walkar could not perform his daughter's last rites. He possibly died a broken man, never having got justice.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A painting in the sky

The IAF's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team showcase breathtaking manoeuvres in their iconic red-and-white Hawk Mk-132 jets, during the inauguration of Aero India 2025 Airshow at the Yelahanka Airforce Station, in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 14, 1975

New pattern of education in Central schools

Madras, Feb. 13: All the higher secondary and Central schools in the country will switch over in June 1975 to the new pattern of education – a 10-year general schooling followed by a two-year higher secondary/pre-degree course and a three-year degree course.

These schools now provide a 11-year education at the end of which students could straightaway join the degree course (without studying the pre-university course).

The new 10-year general school course will consist of languages, mathematics, social science, physical science and physical and health education.

A special feature of the scheme is the plan to provide work experience to students in the 9th and 10th classes.

The Central Secondary Education Board has drawn up detailed syllabus for work experience in 42 different subjects/crafts from which the students could choose.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 14, 1925

Violent weather in England

Leafield (Oxford), Midnight, Feb. 13.: Last night gale's which at times reached a velocity of 68 miles an hour was accompanied by heavy rain and gauges in London area recorded a fall of 1/4 of an inch. Reports from many parts of the country state that large areas are again under water and as rain has continued intermittently during the day, it is feared that considerable damage will result from the flood.

From Page One

Modi-Trump talks: trade and tariffs to be in focus

The government had announced some tariff reductions and elimination as part of the Union Budget on February 1, including high-end motorcycles (impacting Harley-Davidson bikes from the U.S.), textiles and electronics. Reports also suggest that India is considering tariff cuts on other U.S. imports. These steps were "well received" by the Trump administration, a senior White House official said, calling them "early but modest" moves.

The official suggested that there would be an announcement around what they described as a "fair" bilateral trade agreement between India and the U.S. in 2025. Mr. Trump views countries that have trade surpluses with America as taking advantage of the U.S.

Asked about the future of the India-U.S. Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), a broad framework technology partnership signed by the Modi government and Biden administration, the official said he expected technology collaboration to continue under the Trump administration. On energy, another White House official said the U.S. "will prioritise India as a key importer of America's natural resources".

India was designated a Major Defence Partner of the U.S. in 2016, during the first Trump administration and the two sides are "moving towards signing a new defence framework", one of the officials said. The U.S. was discussing new defence procurement, the official added, linking this to bringing down the trade deficit.

On whether Mr. Trump would raise the issue of an alleged Indian government plot to kill an India-born Khalistani separatist, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who is a U.S. citizen, an official said that Mr. Trump "prioritises nothing more than the safety of every American, and that is the continued position of this administration".

Echoing the words of the Biden administration, one of the officials described the India-U.S. bilateral partnership as "one of the most critical, if not the most critical" bilateral relationship in the 21st Century.

Prior to the talks, the Prime Minister, who is staying at Blair House, where the President often hosts guests, had meetings with key Trump allies and officials. Mr. Modi met with U.S. National Security Adviser Michael Waltz, Trump ally and former Republican presidential hopeful Vivek Ramaswamy, and Trump donor and 'special government employee', Elon Musk.

Shortly after he arrived, Mr. Modi met with Tulsi Gabbard, who had just been sworn is as Director of National Intelligence. "There is strong potential for cooperation in sectors like AI, semiconductors, space and more," Mr. Modi tweeted after his conversation with Mr. Waltz, which focused on defence, technology and security.

With Mr. Musk, Mr. Modi said he had discussed innovation, space, mobility and technology. He posted pictures with some of Mr. Musk's children.

Home Minister clearly failed to manage Manipur: Cong.

Party says it has been demanding President's Rule for the past 20 months but the Centre acted only after the 'fabric of society got severely damaged'; CPI(M) seeks elections at the earliest

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said it had been demanding the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur for the past 20 months, but the Union government did so only after the fabric of the State's society was allowed to be "severely damaged".

"This has come after what the Supreme Court called 'the absolute breakdown of constitutional machinery in the State' which saw the killing of over 300 people and displacement of over 60,000 men, women, and children since May 3, 2023. This has come after the fabric of Manipur's society has been allowed to be severely damaged, if not totally destroyed," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, adding that the "Union Home Minister [Amit Shah] has clearly failed to manage Manipur."

Ginza Vualzong of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), a Kuki-Zo body, said President's Rule (PR) was preferable than a change of Chief Minister. "With the PR, I believe the groundwork to end violence will begin, which will pave the way for a conducive environment for political dialogue."

On alert: Security personnel stand guard in the Manipur capital of Imphal following the imposition of President's Rule in the State . PTI

The Manipur CPI(M) unit said President's Rule should be immediately revoked and fresh elections be held at the earliest.

CPI(M) State committee secretary Ksh Shanta told reporters that the party, along with other like-minded parties, would stand for the State's territorial integrity during President Rule.

"The CPI(M) and all aligned parties will stand for Manipur's territorial integrity during President's Rule and any attempt to break the State will not be allowed," Mr. Shanta said.

He said that the selfish quest for power among legislators had brought the State to such a situation.

'Illegal migration up'

Minutes before the order was issued, former Chief Minister and BJP leader N. Biren Singh posted a message on X stating that illegal immigration was on the rise in the State.

"Our land and identity are under threat. With a small population and limited resources, we stand vulnerable. I monitored and detected illegal immigration tirelessly until May 2, 2023. But after the tragic events of 3rd May, 2023, our State machinery has struggled to respond effectively. An unguarded 398-km border with Myanmar and the Free Movement Regime (FMR) were rapidly shifting Manipur's demographic balance. This is not speculation, it is happening before our eyes. Since our government took charge in March 2017, the challenge has only intensified. After the May 3, 2023 incident, the situation has become even more critical," Mr. Singh said.

He urged all authorities concerned to take serious note and intensify efforts to detect and deport illegal immigrants from Manipur, adding that he would continue this fight with unwavering commitment.

(With PTI inputs)

22 gates allow free movement along Myanmar border

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As many as 22 out of 43 crossing points along the Myanmar border under the revised Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement have started functioning, said a senior government official on Thursday. At least 10 border gates, to regulate the movement of people living within 10 km of the India-Myanmar border, have started operations in Manipur, five gates each in Mizoram and Nagaland and two in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Union Home Ministry on December 6 finalised new guidelines to regulate the movement of border residents with QR code enabled passes. As reported by *The Hindu* on December 25, though Home Minister Amit Shah announced that FMR is being scrapped, the agreement is yet to be suspended and no formal orders have been issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to the effect. Myanmar is engulfed in an intensified armed conflict between ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) and the military junta.

The 43 crossing points were finalised by the MHA as per the revised guidelines and Assam Rifles has been entrusted with the task of monitoring the movement of people from across the border.

After the Myanmar military took over the country following a coup on February 1, 2021, over 40,000 refugees belonging to the Chin ethnic group entered Mizoram and Manipur seeking shelter.

Ethnic relations

FMR was brought in place in 1968 due to ethnic and familial relations between people on either side of the largely unfenced north-eastern border. Initially the territorial limit of free movement was 40 km, which was reduced to 16 km in 2004 and in 2016 additional regulations were enforced. It has now reduced to 10 km, the official said.

The official added the unique arrangement allows border residents to visit relatives and families without visa or passport.

Trump's invitation to PM Modi 'significant', says Shashi Tharoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader and Lok Sabha member from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor on Thursday said that U.S. President Donald Trump's invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a "significant development" for the country.

Shashi Tharoor

"It is a fairly significant matter that our Prime Minister is among the first world leaders to receive an appointment from President Trump. That's a good sign. If I am not mistaken, he is the fourth head of government to arrive in Washington and the Trump administration is not even one month old," Mr. Tharoor told reporters in the Parliament complex.

The MP said that one would have to wait for the official communication on the issues that the two leaders discussed but pointed out that trade tariffs proposed by the U.S. administration, rules regarding H-1B visas and the "inhumane" treatment meted out to illegal Indians were likely to occupy centre stage.

He added that global issues such as ending the Russia-Ukraine war and India hosting a summit for Quad countries – a grouping of Australia, India, Japan, and the US – could also be on the table.

India's concerns should be be "front and centre in President Trump's awareness", Mr. Tharoor added.

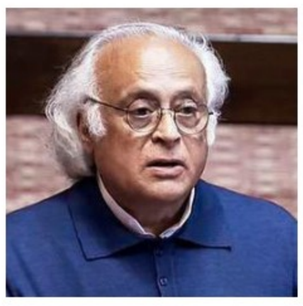
Will PM raise deportation issue in meeting with Trump, asks Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday asked if Prime Minister Narendra Modi would summon "the courage to convey India's collective outrage" at the inhuman treatment of Indian deportees by the U.S. during his meeting with President Donald Trump in Washington D.C.

Taking to X, Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh posed several questions to Mr. Modi, including whether Mr. Modi would inform the U.S. President that India would send its own aircraft - like Venezuela and Colombia did - to bring back Indian deportees in the future.

Mr. Ramesh also claimed that India has already appeased the U.S. President by slashing import duties on some agricultural products and "on Mr. Trump's favourite Harley-Davidson motorcycles". He also noted that a commitment had already been made to amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act, 2010 that U.S. companies had been demanding.



> Will Mr Modi summon up the courage to convey to the US President India's collective outrage at the inhuman manner in which Indian citizens were deported...?"
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress communication chief

"No doubt pacts will be signed and contracts for defence acquisitions firmed up. Even so, we have five questions for the Prime Minister - Will Mr Modi summon up the courage to convey to the US President India's collective outrage at the inhuman manner in which Indian citizens were deported back a few days ago?" Mr. Ramesh asked.

The Congress communications chief also asked if Mr. Modi would reiterate India's long-standing position on Palestine and express strong opposition to the "bizarre proposal" floated by the U.S. president for Gaza.

"Will Mr Modi tell President Trump that the US's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the WHO is an abdication of America's leadership position as well as its responsibility? Will Mr Modi tell President Trump clearly that the racist attacks on H1B visa holders, over 70 per cent of whom are Indian youth, are simply unacceptable? H1B visas have benefited both countries and we hope it can continue," the Congress leader questioned.

Mr. Ramesh also asked if Mr. Modi, in his meeting with President Trump aide and billionaire Elon Musk, will clearly state that Tesla must manufacture, and not just assemble in India if it sees the country as a market for its electric vehicles.

"Will Mr Modi reiterate the policy of auctioning (not administratively allocating) spectrum, which he championed after becoming Prime Minister in May 2014? Will he also emphasise that security considerations are simply non-negotiable when it comes to satellite internet providers like Starlink?" the Congress general secretary added.

The Prime Minister will be hosted by the U.S. President in the bilateral talks on Thursday.

New I-T Bill proposes easier tax compliance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the new Income Tax Bill of 2025 in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, aimed at simplifying and revamping the 1961 Income Tax Act, which has been amended over 4,000 times since it came into force in April 1962, and is viewed as complicated and cumbersome by taxpayers as well as accountants.

Ms. Sitharaman, who had announced a comprehensive review of the I-T law to make it concise, and easy to understand while providing tax certainty, in her 2024-25 Budget presented last July, said the proposed Bill will be sent for a review to a select committee of Parliament.

The new Bill nearly halves the current direct tax law's 5.1 lakh-odd word count, as well as the number of chapters from 47 to 23.

Officials said the Bill does away with many redundant provisions, and over 2,100 provisos and explanations have been scrapped.

Multiple terms such as "assessment year", "previous year" and "financial year" will now be replaced by the concept of "tax year" and "financial year".

SC youth attacked for riding a two-wheeler

L. Srikrishna
SIVAGANGA

A 20-year-old Scheduled Caste college student in Sivaganga district in south Tamil Nadu was attacked by a gang of three caste Hindus on Wednesday for riding a motorcycle. He suffered multiple injuries and was hospitalised.

The three accused were arrested on Thursday. The police registered cases under various sections of the BNS, including attempt to murder, and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, based on a complaint from the victim's mother.

Ayyasami, a resident of Melapidavoor near Manamadurai and a third-year Mathematics student in the Raja Duraisingam Government College of Arts and Science, was returning home on his two-wheeler around 6 p.m. when the three intercepted him.

The three persons – Vinod Kumar, 21, Adiswaran, 22, and Vallarasu, 21 – intercepted and questioned him for riding the bike in front of them.

An altercation ensued and one of the attackers pulled out a *vaal* (sword-shaped weapon) and attacked Mr. Ayyasami, in which he suffered multiple injuries on the hands.

Only Parliament can constitutionally remove HC judge: Jagdeep Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday asserted that only Parliament has the jurisdiction to constitutionally remove a High Court judge, saying a notice for the removal of Justice Shekhar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court is pending with him.

His remarks come in the context of the Supreme Court's summons to Justice Yadav to appear before senior judges of the top court regarding his communally charged remarks. Earlier in January, the SC sought a report from the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court on the issue as well.

Speaking in the House, the Chairman made it clear that Justice Yadav's fate fell within his domain. He asked the Rajya Sabha Secretary General to share with the Secretary General of the SC the information that 55 members of the Upper House had also given a notice to the Chairman, seeking the removal of Justice Yadav in December.

The RS Chairman's made the statement over the Supreme Court summon for Justice Shekhar Yadav of Allahabad HC. ANI

"I am seized of an undated notice for motion received on 13 December 2024, bearing 55 purported signatures of the members of the Rajya Sabha seeking removal from office of Justice Shekhar Yadav of Allahabad High Court under Article 124(4) of the Constitution. The jurisdiction for the stated subject matter constitutionally lies in exclusivity with the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and in an eventuality with the Parliament and Hon'ble President," Mr. Dhankhar said.

"Taking note of public domain information and inputs available, it is expedient that the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha shares this information with the Secretary-General, Supreme Court of India," he said.

Impeachment notice

Members of several Opposition parties had moved the notice in the Rajya Sabha on December 13, 2024, seeking the impeachment of Justice Yadav over his alleged controversial remarks, which they said were "hate speech and incitement to communal disharmony" at an event organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), sources said.

Appointments of 13 judges to HCs notified

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Law Ministry on Thursday notified the appointment of 13 judges across nine High Courts.

Six advocates and two judicial officers were on Thursday elevated as judges in seven High Courts.

In a statement, the Law Ministry said while two advocates were appointed as additional judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, one advocate each was appointed as a judge in the Delhi, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka High Courts.

One judicial officer each was elevated as judge of the Gauhati and Calcutta High Courts. Two additional judges of the Madras HC and three of the Telangana HC were confirmed as permamnet judges of their respective courts.

APPEAL

Master Mohammed Abdullah, CMC Hospital No. AF46466, 6 years old son of Mohammed Abdul Mukhtadir admitted Christian Medical College has been diagnosed to have Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life-threatening blood disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of Mud Transplant in this hospital is approximately **Rs. 35,00,000**/-.

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Mohammed Abdullah.

Our Account Details: S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

‘Food prices to be under control, critical imports face uncertainty’

Finance Minister tells Rajya Sabha that government will take measures to ensure that ordinary citizens are not burdened by inflation; says the Union Budget has been made during a difficult time when external challenges are ‘very severe’

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Food prices are expected to be under control in the coming year, going by advance estimates of crop output, but the government will keep monitoring prices and act to ensure that ordinary citizens are not burdened by inflation, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Responding to members’s concerns about high inflation during the discussion in the House on the Union Budget 2025-26, Ms. Sitharaman said the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) showed price rise eased to 4.31% in January from 5.22% in December and is now close to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) target of 4%.

Vision for growth: Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session on Thursday. PTI

“So there’s a steep correction, particularly in potato, onion, and tomato prices, which are key components in the CPI food basket, and additionally, the decline in pulses inflation, supported by tariff-free imports for the pulses we don’t adequately produce domestically for our consumption. As per the RBI’s report of February 7, CPI inflation for 2025-26 is projected to average only 4.2%,” she said.

Before outlining the Budget’s steps to boost output in the farm sector, Ms. Sitharaman said that food inflation gets triggered “when you have an adverse weather condition and supply chain disruptions”. A Group of Ministers (GoM) is overseeing the situation so that timely imports happen when there is a supply shortfall.

“With the first advance estimates of agricultural production of 2024-25 being what it is, kharif food grain production is expected to rise 5.7% and the production of rice and tur dal is expected to increase by 5.9% and 2.5%, respectively, compared to 2023-24. So the prices of food will be well under the inflation radar,” the Minister said.

With the economy expected to grow 6.4% this year, the Budget aims to accelerate growth, secure inclusive development, invigorate private sector investments, uplift household sentiments, and also directly or indirectly enhance the spending power of the rising middle class, she said.

Stressing that the Budget has been made during a “very difficult time” when external challenges are “very severe” and beyond the realm of projections or predictions, the Minister cautioned that this immense uncertainty is still playing out and many Indian imports critical for the economy are also going to be mired in uncertainty.

The world’s economic order is seeing a major change from what used to be the mantras of recent decades, she said, pointing to globalisation being marred by fragmentation, fiscal prudence being hit by the rising debts of countries, and multilateral bodies getting diluted and not exerting themselves while bilateral and regional forums are calling the shots.

“But despite that, we have tried keeping the assessments as close as possible to what can develop, keeping India’s interests topmost...,” she said.

Opposition walks out as FM defends Budget allocations, BJP calls it lack of ‘patience’

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha, belonging to the Congress and the Trinamool Congress, walked out while Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was responding to the debate on the Union Budget.

The MPs alleged that Ms. Sitharaman had ignored the demands of the States in the Budget. Despite the States seeking more allocations, the Minister was merely reading out the schemes initiated by the Narendra Modi government since 2014, they said. The Rajya Sabha was adjourned soon after the Minister’s reply and is scheduled to meet again on March 10 for the second leg of the Budget Session.

The issue began when Ms. Sitharaman countered Congress MP Renuka Chowdhury’s charges that

Renuka Chowdhury

Telangana had been denied financial aid as promised in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. Ms. Sitharaman denied the claim and read out a list of schemes and programmes initiated for Telangana. It was Mr. Modi who gave the city a railway station, she said.

In West Bengal, quoting Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, she said the State government did not submit a proposal for a tourism project and that was the reason for the Centre not allocating any amount. Protesting against the statement, Trinamool Congress leader Derek O’Brien argued that the Minister should not defame a government as per the rules.

BJP president and Minister J.P. Nadda defended Ms. Sitharaman and said the Opposition did not have the patience to listen to her response.

The members from Kerala too argued that the State had been ignored in the Budget but Ms. Sitharaman denied the charge.

She also had a heated argument with DMK members. Senior MP Tiruchi Siva asked for details on the allocations for Metro rail projects in Madurai and Coimbatore. She replied by saying that the Centre had agreed to help Tamil Nadu with loans from multilateral agencies. During the debate, the BJP members said the States had been given adequate allocation.

Report on Waqf Bill tabled; Opposition MPs protest ‘censoring’ of dissent notes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition members in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha protested against the “censoring” of their dissent notes from the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was tabled in Parliament on Thursday.

Following hectic parleys, significant portions of the Opposition’s dissent notes – barring the paragraphs “casting aspersions” on the working of the panel – were retained. A corrigendum to this effect was tabled in the Rajya Sabha in the post-lunch session.

The corrigendum came after Opposition members in the JPC – the AIMIM’s Asaduddin Owaisi, Congress’s Syed Naseer Hussain, and the DMK’s M.M. Abdulla – met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.

In the Lok Sabha, Home Minister Amit Shah said the government had no objection to the inclusion of the Opposition’s dissent notes in the report.

In the Rajya Sabha, protests erupted as soon as the JPC report was tabled, with several members storming into the Well of the House. The House was adjourned for 10 minutes. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar named the Trinamool’s Samirul Islam and Nadimul Haque, and the DMK’s Abdulla for causing “disruption”.

Bitter rift: Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session on Thursday. ANI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, said only majority members’ views were retained in the final report. Calling it “anti-democratic”, Mr. Kharge said such “fake reports” where due procedure had not been followed were not acceptable.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who also handles the portfolio of Minority Affairs Ministry, intervened and said: “There is no deletion of any part of the report”. He said the Opposition’s allegations were false. Countering this, Mr. Hussain said a significant portion of his dissent note had been redacted. He claimed that non-stakeholders were called for the JPC meetings, and said the minutes of the meetings and responses of witnesses were not shared with the members.

Followed rules: Rijiju

Later, at a press conference, Mr. Rijiju said that small portions of the dissent notes had been expunged by the panel chairperson and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal. “Some of the points, which amount to casting aspersions on the committee itself, have been removed. The Chairman of the committee has powers to do so... Everything has been done as per rules,” Mr. Rijiju said.

The Lok Sabha could not conduct the Question Hour and was adjourned in the morning as Opposition members protested over the JPC report tabled in the Rajya Sabha. Mr. Birla then adjourned the House till 2 p.m. When the House reassembled, the report was tabled by Mr. Pal amid vociferous protests.

Mr. Shah then said that the BJP was not against inclusion of the dissent notes in the report, and asked the Speaker to decide according to procedures.

However, the Opposition continued its protests and staged a walkout when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stood up to introduce the Income Tax Bill.

Rahul takes stock of Congress MPs’ performance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday met Congress MPs and reviewed their performance in the first part of the Budget Session.

Before the House went into recess, Mr. Gandhi presided over a closed-door meeting with his Lok Sabha colleagues. He assessed the performance of the MPs on three parameters: attendance, participation of the members in Opposition protests, and the impact of their speeches during the debates on the Union Budget and the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to the joint session of Parliament.

Later, Mr. Gandhi, Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and other Kerala MPs staged a demonstration within the Parliament complex over the issues of animal attacks in the State and the protection of coastal areas from sand mining.

“Since December 27, 11 persons have been killed by wild animals in Wayanad. It is a very worrisome situation,” Ms. Vadra said, adding, “The Union government and the State government have to send funds to mitigate this problem because when I spoke with local people they are trying their best but they don’t have enough funds.”

The MPs carried placards that read “stop offshore sand mining”, “save lives”, “prevent wildlife attacks”, and “protect coastal and forest bordering communities”.

On Tuesday, the Congress and the Revolutionary Socialist Party urged the Centre to withdraw its decision to conduct offshore sand mining in Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Take action on Aparajita Bill: Trinamool MPs to President

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A delegation of Trinamool Congress MPs met President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday, urging her to expedite the Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024, which had been sent to her by West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on September 6.

President Droupadi Murmu assured Trinamool MPs that she would look into the issue

On September 3, the West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed the Bill, which seeks to impose capital punishment for rape convicts if their actions result in the victim’s death or leave her in a vegetative state, and life imprisonment without parole for other perpetrators.

“The Bill is awaiting the assent of the Honourable President. We urged the President to take the necessary action at the earliest regarding this Bill,” Trinamool MP Pratima Mondal said. The President assured the delegates that she would look into the issue, the delegation said.

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
NOTIFICATION No.05/2025-RC Dated: 14.02.2025

Applications are invited for Recruitment to **50 Posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division)** in the A.P. State Judicial Service, comprising of **40 vacancies to be filled under Direct Recruitment** and **10 vacancies to be filled under Recruitment by Transfer**. The recruitment process shall be governed by the Andhra Pradesh State Judicial (Service & Cadre) Rules, 2007. The detailed notification placed on the website on **14.02.2025**. Online application and user manual are available from **20.02.2025** on the official website of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh **https://aphc.gov.in**. The Last date for submission of Online Application is **17.03.2025 upto 11.59 P.M.**

Important dates
1. Starting date for submission of online Application: **20.02.2025**
2. Closing Date for Submission of online Application: **17.03.2025 upto 11.59 P.M.** 3. Date of Screening Test (Computer based test): **16.04.2025**.

Note: - No other mode of application will be entertained.

Amaravati, Dated:14.02.2025 Sd/-
DIPR 15331/CL, Dt.13-02-2025 REGISTRAR (RECRUITMENT)

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर

क्रमांक :- जो.वि.प्रा./जोन प्रोजेक्ट/RAJKAJ/13567308 दिनांक :- 12/02/2025

खुली निविदा सूचना संख्या:- जोन प्रोजेक्ट/5/2024-25

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से प्राधिकरण / राजकीय विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदको / एम.एसएम.ई. रजिस्टर्ड / उद्यम रजिस्टर्ड ठेकेदार से सिविल कार्य हेतु मुहरबंद एवं निविदाएं बंद लिफाफे में आमंत्रित की जाती है। इन कार्यो की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, निविदा, शर्ते आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **www.jodhpurjda.org** एवं **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती है।

NIB CODE :- JOD2425A0168
UBN/TENDER ID :- JOD2425WLOB00372

राज.संवाद/सी/24/11611 अधिशाषी अभियंता (प्रोजेक्ट)

RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS AND IT SERVICES LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd.) (A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40104RJ2015SGC048738 Regd. Office - Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005 Work Office at: 1st Floor, HUDCO Building, Jyoti nagar, Jaipur- 302005 E-mail:ce.RUVNL@rajasthan.gov.in; Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/RUVNL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids are invited to procure up to 1000 MW power from 01st May 2025 to 30th June 2025 on short term basis from various Generators/ State Utilities/ CPPs/ Distribution Licensees/ SEBs/ Trading Licensees as per specification under TN-28/RUVITL/FY 2024-25. May visit website **www.mstcecommerce.com/ www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ruvks/#/home/dptHome** for further details.

RUVITL/PR-87 (2025)
Raj.Samwad/C/24/11660 Superintending Engineer (PP)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-BIDs
SE(PROC-I)/NIB- 09/2024-25/BN- 9015002423, UBN-VPN2425GLRC02877

Online e-bids are invited from interested bidders for Fabrication, Galvanizing, Testing and Supply of complete package of Galvanised Steel Structures along with required G. I. Bolts with Nuts (ISI marked), Spring washers, etc. for 220 kV & 132 kV Grid Sub-Station(BN-9015002423, UBN-VPN2425GLRC02877) up to 15:00 hrs. dated 26.03.2025.

The detailed NIB and Bid document/specification are available for viewing/downloading on the website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.** Details of NIB are available on website **energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn.** Any extension in bid submission/opening date (if any) will be floated/uploaded on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn** only.

Raj.Samwad/C/24/11603 **RRVPN/TR-6611/2025** Superintending Engineer (Proc-I)

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: kemp.kmscl@kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/KEMP/944/2020 **Dated : 13.02.2025**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited for operating 14 MOBILE MEDICAL CLINICS in various Districts of Kerala.

Online bids are invited from experienced operators for the operation of 14 Mobile Medical Clinics for the tribal areas of Kerala except Kottayam and Alappuzha districts. The pre-bid meeting will be held at KMSCL Head Office on 19.02.2025, 10.30 a.m. Last date of online submission of bids is 06.03.2025, 05.00 p.m. Date of opening of online technical bid: 10.03.2025, 11.00 a.m. Tender documents and all other information relating to the experience of the bidder and bidding process can be downloaded from the website: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director(Tender Inviting Authority)

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Chennai
MeitY, Govt. of India

Vacancies for Multiple Positions (Contract Basis)

- Senior Resource Person (Admin)
- Resource Person (Admin)
- Resource Person (Accounts)
- Resource Person (DS)
- Multi-Tasking Staff
- Project Engineer (3DPAM)

Online Interview starts from 27.02.2025
For more details, please visit : https://rect.nielitchennai.edu.in
E-mail : **chennai@nielit.gov.in** Ph : **+91 9445880125**

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Plot No. N-17/2, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751 012
Phone No. : (0674) 2390195(Off) . Fax No. (0674)2395844,
E-Mail ID : olicltd123@bsnl.in, olicltd@ymail.com; http://odishalift.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
No. IT- 13 /2025 - 1174 / OLIC, Dated - 11.02.2025

The Managing Director, OLIC Ltd., Bhubaneswar invites online tender in percentage rate through e-procurement for installation, electrification, energisation & commissioning of Deep Bore wells in Ganjam and Nayagarh districts of Odisha state. Interested Bidders may visit website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** to view and download Detailed Tender Call Notice and bid documents. The bids should be submitted only online in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Important features of this NCB are as under :

A.	Brief description of Work	: Installation, electrification, energisation & commissioning of Deep borewells in Ganjam & Nayagarh districts (05 Packages)
B.	Estimated cost of works	: Varies from **Rs.798.01 Lakhs to Rs.1110.28 Lakhs**
C.	Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	: **From dt.19.02.2025 to dt.17.03.2025** (up to 17.00 Hours)
D	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the Portal	: **dt.17.03.2025 up to 17.00 Hours**
E.	Last date of seeking clarification	: **dt.03.03.2025 up to 17.00 Hours**
F.	Technical Bid will be opened on	: **dt.18.03.2025 at 11.00 Hours.**

Any Addendum/ corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender will be available in the said website.

Authority reserves the right to accept /reject any or all the tenders, increase or decrease the quantities of work put to bidding without assigning any reasons thereof.

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
OLIC LTD, BHUBANESWAR

CAD-2544: OIPR-32135/11/0021/2425

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Plot No. N-17/2, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751 012
Phone No. : (0674) 2390195(Off) . Fax No. (0674)2395844,
E-Mail ID : olicltd123@bsnl.in, olicltd@ymail.com; http://odishalift.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
No. IT- 14 /2025 - 1233 / OLIC, Dated - 12.02.2025

The Managing Director, OLIC Ltd., Bhubaneswar invites online tender in percentage rate through e-procurement for installation, electrification, energisation & commissioning of Deep Borewells in Nayagarh, Boudh, Balasore and Balangir districts of Odisha state. Interested Bidders may visit website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** to view and download Detailed Tender Call Notice and bid documents. The bids should be submitted only online in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Important features of this NCB are as under :

A.	Brief description of Work	: Installation, electrification, energisation & commissioning of Deep Borewells in Nayagarh, Boudh, Balasore & Balangir Districts (05 Packages)
B.	Estimated cost of works	: Varies from **Rs.162.95 Lakhs to Rs.1566.51 Lakhs**
C.	Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	: **From dt.19.02.2025 to dt.17.03.2025** (up to 17.00 Hours)
D	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the Portal	: **dt.17.03.2025 up to 17.00 Hours**
E.	Last date of seeking clarification	: **dt.03.03.2025 up to 17.00 Hours**
F.	Technical Bid will be opened on	: **dt.18.03.2025 at 11.00 Hours.**

Any Addendum/ corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender will be available in the said website.

Authority reserves the right to accept /reject any or all the tenders, increase or decrease the quantities of work put to bidding without assigning any reasons thereof.

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
OLIC LTD, BHUBANESWAR

CAD-2545: OIPR-32135/11/0019/2425

INBRIEF

Mumbai Police summon comedian Samay Raina

The Maharashtra Cyber Department and Mumbai Police have summoned comedian Samay Raina to appear before them within the next five days in connection with controversial remarks made by social media influencer Ranveer Allahbadia on Mr. Raina's YouTube show *India's Got Latent*, sources said. Mr. Raina, currently in the U.S., has requested additional time to comply with the summons. Both the Cyber Department and the Mumbai Police are conducting separate investigations into Mr. Allahbadia's remarks on the show. While the Mumbai Police have asked Mr. Raina to record his statement by February 17, the cyber cell has summoned him to appear before it on February 18.

No law on disabled persons using service animals: Centre

The Centre has informed the Delhi High Court that there was no legal framework for utilising service animals by persons with disabilities and framing guidelines on it required extensive consultations among stakeholders, including ministries. The court was informed on February 12 that a meeting was held by the Centre's Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)to deliberate upon framing guidelines for use of service animals by persons with disabilities. Whether or not trained animals are safe to be allowed in public transport was also discussed in the meeting.

Unloading of Union Carbide waste begins in M.P. town

Officials reassure residents that the containers will remain locked and incineration will not take place till next hearing in court on February 18; residents revive protests against burning of waste

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Waste containers from the defunct Union Carbide plant in Bhopal were unloaded from the trucks that transported them to a waste management facility at Pithampur in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district on Thursday, five days before the Jabalpur High Court is scheduled to hear a case regarding the disposal of the waste.

This comes 40 years after a gas leak at the Union Carbide plant killed thousands in Bhopal.

Dhar Collector Priyank Mishra said the unloading of containers was being undertaken in consultation with and in the presence of local representatives, reiterating that the incineration of the waste had not started.

Nearly 358 tonnes of toxic chemical waste have been lying in 12 trucks at the Pithampur Industrial Waste Management Private Limited, owned by Ramky Group, since January 2. The State government moved the waste from the defunct factory, intending to incinerate it at the facility in Pithampur, an industrial town near Indore. The move prompted mass protests in Pithampur and nearby areas, forcing the government to seek six weeks from the High Court for consensus-building.

No consensus: A truck carrying toxic waste from the Union Carbide factory parked in Pithampur. A.M. FARUQUI

The next hearing in the case is scheduled for February 18, spurring the revival of protests in Pithampur.

'Containers still locked'

"The waste will continue to be inside the containers and they are not being unlocked. If any practical aspects emerge in the future, they will have to be taken under consideration but only when the scientific experts recommend that," Mr. Mishra told reporters outside the facility. He clarified that any further action will only occur after the public is taken into confidence.

"Any decision on the burning [of the waste] will be taken after all the facts are presented before the court during the next hearing," he added.

Pithampur Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Pramod Gurjar denied rumours that incineration was starting, adding that the containers were being unloaded following all safety measures.

"The claims about the start of the burning process are incorrect. No misinformation or false rumours should be spread," he said.

Local protests

Rajesh Choudhary, a lawyer and activist whose intervention petition is part of the ongoing case in the HC, said that the local groups were currently focusing on the upcoming court hearing and that their next course of action would be decided based on the court's directions.

"Unloading the containers does not make much of a difference as the disposal process is not starting. We understand the concerns about the piling up of the trucks and other practical issues. Our focus is on presenting all the facts and evidences we have gathered in front of the court," he told *The Hindu*.

On Wednesday, a group of activists and locals demonstrated by performing *shavasana* (corpse pose), covered in white sheets, to protest against the plans to incinerate the waste in the town.

The State government, however, has assured residents that the process will be carried out scientifically and under the supervision of experts.

Rafale-M pact to be inked soon, delivery to start after 4 years

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Deliveries of the Rafale-M for the Indian Navy would begin in four years once the contract is signed, which is set to be done in the next couple of months when the French Defence Minister visits India, according to official sources. This also means that in 2029, the Indian Navy would begin receiving both the Rafale-M jets and also the MQ-9B armed high-altitude long-endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) contracted from the U.S. last year.

The deal is wrapped up and is now a matter of when it is signed, a source said. Deliveries will begin 48 months from the contract date and will be completed in two years from that, the source added.

The Navy is keen that the deal is inked in this financial year ending March 31. Sources said that this is a government-to-government deal and funds can be blocked even if the deal is signed in April.

The dates for the French Minister's visit, either in March or April, are yet to be finalised, the source added.

There are two mega-defence deals in the pipeline between India and France, the Rafael-M jets manufactured by Dassault Aviation and three additional Scorpene-class conventional submarines by Naval Group, together worth over $10 billion.

A Marine Rafale lands on the deck of French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle. FILE PHOTO

In December, in response to a question from *The Hindu* at the annual press conference, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi stated that both the deals are in the final steps and one step short of clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). "It is just a matter of completing the formalities of the acquisition process and we expect that if not this month, next month, hopefully, this [Scorpène submarines] and Rafale-M deals should be signed," he had stated.

Aaditya meets Kejriwal, Rahul; flags concerns over 'electoral irregularities'

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray met Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi on Thursday, raising concerns over alleged electoral irregularities and the state of democracy in the country.

Accompanied by senior Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Sanjay Raut and Priyanka Chaturvedi, Mr. Thackeray discussed the outcome of the Delhi Assembly election, which the BJP won, and the future of the Opposition INDIA bloc. The AAP has accused the Congress – its ally in the INDIA bloc – of undermining its chances on at least 13 seats.

Addressing reporters after the meeting, Mr. Thackeray described his interaction with Mr. Kejriwal as a "gesture of friendship" but expressed concerns about the fairness of elections. "Governments come and go, but relationships continue. We met Kejriwal in the spirit of friendship. However, our democracy is not free and fair. Elections are not free and fair," he said.

AAP leader Sanjay Singh with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Mr. Thackeray alleged large-scale voter list manipulations by the Election Commission in States like Maharashtra, Haryana, Odisha, and Delhi. "The EC has taken away people's right to vote. It is not even willing to discuss this issue," he said.

Reiterating the need for electoral integrity, Mr. Thackeray stressed, "Free and fair elections are fundamental to the country's democracy."

With cracks widening in the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra, Mr. Thackeray also met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi late on Wednesday, reportedly to discuss the alliance's internal discord. The meeting follows Nationalist Congress Party (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar's decision to honour Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, a move that has triggered unease within the bloc.

Bangladesh-based terror operative arrested in Chennai

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam Police Special Task Force (STF) caught a key operative of two Bangladesh-based terror groups from Chennai on Wednesday, the Assam Police said on Thursday.

Abu Salam Ali was the 14th member of either or both the Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen arrested by the STF from various parts of the country over the past two months.

In December 2024, the STF also arrested five operatives of the Pakistan-lined terror group, Jaish-e-Mohammad.

Parthasarathi Mahanta, the Inspector General of Police heading the STF, said the elusive Ali was tracked to a locality under Semmencherry police station in Chennai with the help of the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Police.

His capture was part of 'Operation Praghat', an offensive that targets fundamentalist networks and global terrorist organisations nationwide.

"Ali, a resident of Khudigaon Part-II village in western Assam's Dhubri district, has been on the run since the night of December 17, 2024, when eight members of the ABT were arrested through a coordinated operation across Assam, Kerala, and West Bengal," Mr. Mahanta said.

Investigations revealed that Ali played a major role in strengthening the extremist groups and was working in close coordination with Nur Islam Mandal and Shahinur Islam. They were also plotting attacks on some political leaders in India, police said.

Situation along the Line of Control stable, ceasefire with Pakistan is intact, says Army

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Indian Army on Thursday downplayed the recent skirmishes along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and underscored that the ceasefire was "intact as per the understanding between both the Armies" of India and Pakistan.

"The ceasefire on the LoC is intact and continues to be observed as per the understanding between both the Armies of India and Pakistan. Tension due to some stray incidents of cross LoC firing and a suspected IED blast on one of our patrols on the LoC is being dealt with through the established mechanism," the Army said in a statement.

It said that no exchange of fire of heavy-calibre weapons had taken place along the LoC in recent times. "Minor incidents are not unprecedented along the LoC," it said.

There has been a rise in militant activities along the LoC in Jammu. FILE PHOTO

Appropriate level

The Army said concerns had been raised to the Pakistan Army at the appropriate level. "The situation remains stable and is being closely monitored. The Indian Army maintains a high state of alertness and is dominating the LoC," it said.

The statement comes against the backdrop of the recent uptick in militant activities near the LoC in the Jammu division. Two soldiers, including a Captain, were killed in an improvised explosive device blast in Jammu's Akhnoor Sector on February 11.

Meanwhile, a high-level security meeting was chaired by J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha in Jammu. It is the second meeting in the past two days. Mr. Sinha on Wednesday held a security review meeting in Srinagar.

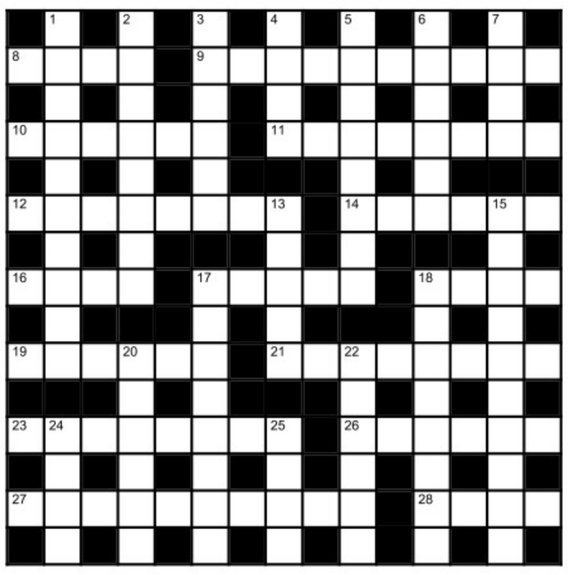
Officials said the meeting on Thursday was attended by top officials of the police, the Army, the CRPF, and other security wings.

TH CROSSWORD + 14408

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Turncoat's food (4)
9 At last, badly mutilate fifty at day's end (10)
10 Pass directions about friend's return (6)
11 Alien rides (8)
12 Put together parts made from base metals after removing bits of tin and aluminium (8)
14 Weapon is kept behind the empty tent (6)
16 Lake in Andheri estate (4)
17 Guide stock from ranch (5)
18 Yankee follows policeman and ape (4)
19 Bond, perhaps, catches flower thrown back... That's fast! (6)
21 Oldster confused about daughter's little ones (8)
23 Kid endlessly tells untruths for getting hot peppers (8)
26 Alleges Iodine is found in some crustaceans (6)
27 What may be the effect of leaving the coop open? Back off in fear! (7,3)
28 Boy and girl produce musical composition (4)

Down

1 Product made from purple yams... It goes well with pancakes (5,5)
2 Utter, "Finish" (8)
3 Purse stitched by boy is extraordinarily good (6)
4 German guy loves to cover Tourist Trophy (4)
5 Copycat destruction of ait in Timor revolution (8)
6 Hit and walk out for example (6)
7 After golf, general shows happiness (4)
13 Build before court (5)
15 Old guys with temperature hug fairy in test (10)
17 Ink-less composition around yard shows silhouettes of buildings of cities (8)
18 Mistake by officer at first leads to downfall (8)
20 Contorting, can Lee twist and tangle? (6)
22 Take some education at school and get gold coins (6)
24 Sunken fence in Omaha hamlet (2-2)
25 Work hard chopping logs (4)

SUDOKU

		1		9		5		
			7		8		9	
3					5		7	2
9			8	2			5	
		7				2		
	3			4	7			1
1	5		2					8
	4		1		9			
		9		3		7		

No.SS6430 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

	W		O		A		V		G		P		P	
W	O	O	S		D	R	A	W	L		I	D	O	L
	K		C		D		G		A		R		R	
E	S	C	U	D	O		R	E	D	R	A	F	T	S
			L		N		A		I		T			
A	S	S	A	S	S	I	N		O	P	E	N	L	Y
	W		T				T		L				Y	
D	I	V	E	R	S	E		P	I	L	G	R	I	M
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A	T	T	A	I	N		A	L	T	E	R	E	G	O
			U		T		K		H		G			
A	S	I	T	W	E	R	E		R	U	E	F	U	L
	H		H		N		O		U		O		R	
H	E	R	O		C	L	U	B	S		U	S	E	S
	D		R		E		T		T		S		A	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	4	9	1	8	6	2	5	3
6	5	8	2	4	3	7	1	9
3	1	2	9	5	7	4	6	8
1	8	5	3	9	4	6	7	2
9	3	7	6	2	1	5	8	4
4	2	6	8	7	5	3	9	1
8	9	4	7	6	2	1	3	5
2	6	1	5	3	8	9	4	7
5	7	3	4	1	9	8	2	6

FAITH

Seek Chakrapani protection

Crores of devotees throng Kumbakonam on the occasion of Masi magham, falling in the Tamil month of Masi and celebrated as a spiritually cleansing day. For Vaishnavites, the day is doubly significant, as it is on this day that Chakrapani Perumal took avatar, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

Ego is the downfall of everyone, including celestials. Surya, the sun god, became so arrogant over his lustre and sheen that he amped up his heat, rendering the earth unbearably hot. Smarting under the heatwave, sages and devotees prayed to Lord Narayana and surrendered to Sarangapani Perumal, Kumbakonam, seeking His intervention. Lord Sarangapani despatched one of his weapons, Chakra, to tame Surya's ego. Chakra's glow was so powerful that it covered the Sun completely, rendering it as bright as a new moon. A chastened Surya, realising the error of his egoistic ways, surrendered to Sarangapani, acknowledging that He was the greatest power and sought His mercy for restoration of his power to relay heat and light. Surya was directed to seek pardon from Chakra, also known as Chakratazhwar.

Surya prayed at the Chakrapani temple, on the banks of the Cauvery in Kumbakonam, where Brahma had consecrated the deity of Chakrapani. This is the world's first temple dedicated to Chakra. Chakrapani, who took avatar on the day of Masi magham, offers darshan to all, flanked by his consorts, Vijayavalli and Sudarshanavalli. The ten-day festival in the month of Masi attracts devotees by the hordes, who pray to Chakrapani to alleviate their fears, cure their illnesses and bless them with good health.

INBRIEF

Nissan, Honda boards vote to end merger talks, sources say

The boards of Nissan and Honda voted to end talks to merge the Japanese automakers, people familiar with the matter said. A tie-up would have created the world's fourth-biggest auto group by sales after Toyota, Volkswagen and Hyundai. Nissan, Japan's third-largest automaker, backed out of the talks with larger rival Honda after negotiations were complicated by growing differences, including Honda proposing Nissan become a subsidiary, sources had said. REUTERS

JSL MD bats for 25% duty on Indian stainless steel imports

Jindal Stainless' MD Abhyuday Jindal on Thursday pressed for a duty of up to 25% for imports to protect local manufacturers against possible dumping of goods into the country. U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to impose a 25% import tax on steel and aluminum will be beneficial for the domestic industry, he said. However, the move may lead to products across the world reaching India, which continues to be a growing market, he said. PTI

Hindalco Q3 net rises 60% to ₹3,735 cr. on India business

Hindalco Industries Ltd. of the Aditya Birla Group reported a 60% year-on-year growth in Q3 consolidated net profit to ₹3,735 crore on excellent operational performance by the India business, the company said. Consolidated revenue from operations grew 11% to ₹58,390 crore. India business reported a net profit of ₹2,885 crore, up 134%. Novelis' revenue stood at $4.1 billion, mainly driven by higher average aluminum prices.

Sales, profit growth lag in Q3

The results of 1899 companies for the October-December quarter show a slight slowdown in growth in net sales to 5.9% according to Bank of Baroda (BoB) economists' research, which points to a "clear K-shaped recovery" in corporate results

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Corporate India's private sector net profit grew at 14% in the third quarter (Q3) of 2024-25, compared with 16.6% in the year-ago period, as per a study by the Bank of Baroda (BoB) economic research team.

Based on the Q3 results of 1,899 companies across four broad sectors – non-consumer manufacturing, non-consumer services, BFSI [banking, financial services and insurance], consumer manufacturing and consumer services – the study noted a broad-based slowdown in sales which climbed at 5.9% in the Q3 compared with 7.4% a year ago. Even this growth was uneven.

Tell-tale signs: Net sales shrunk in banking and financial services, growing at about 9% in Q3FY25 from almost 22% Q3FY24. REUTERS

"The performance was diverse across different broad sector groups classified under consumer and non-consumer oriented industries. There does appear to be a distinct K-shaped performance matrix here with some sectors doing much better than others," the report noted.

Net sales growth in banking and financial services, slowed to about 9% in Q3 from almost 22% a year ago. Net profit growth was also uneven.

Banking net profit rose 20.4% to ₹1.31 lakh crore. Non-consumer manufacturing net profit growth slowed to 4.1%, mostly on sliding growth in iron, steel and crude oil. Consumer manufacturing net profit growth slowed significantly with tepid growth in automobiles. Consumer services net doubled, compared to an eight-fold surge last year. But this was largely due to higher earnings of a telecom firm.

"There is a clear K-shaped recovery seen via corporate results. Crude oil and steel have been the ones under pressure on the manufacturing side. The auto segment in particular has also faced headwinds on the costs side... Services segments have performed well on both manufacturing and services fronts," the study said.

Sedate start to 2025: January passenger vehicle sales up just 1.6%

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Passenger vehicles' (PV) domestic sales grew 1.6% year-on-year in January to a tad over 3.99 lakh units but this was led by a spike in utility vehicle sales.

In the PV category, passenger car sales declined 8.2% to 1,57,300 units while the utility vehicle (UV) segment saw a 13.1% increase in sales to 2,63,971 units. Van sales dropped 6.5% to 12,279 units.

Two-wheelers' offtake grew 2.1% in January with sales of 15,26,218 units, as per data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Thursday. Three-wheeler sales increased 7.7% to 58,167 units. Total domestic sales grew 2.5% to 19,35,696 units.

Uphill climb: Total domestic sales grew 2.5% YoY to 19,35,696 units in January, according to SIAM data. PTI

Exports surge

During the month, total vehicle exports skyrocketed 40.2% to 4,62,500 unit, as per SIAM data.

"The recent Union Budget announcements prioritising long-term economic growth and particularly personal income tax changes and reduction in interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would help in boosting consumer confidence and drive demand in the auto industry," Rajesh Menon, director general of SIAM said in a statement.

Total automobiles' production increased by 9.3% in January to touch 25,46,643 units.

Tata.ev eyes doubling charge points to four lakh

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

TATA.ev, the electric vehicle (EV) brand of Tata Motors, said it would more than double its charge points from about two lakh to four lakh by 2027, in a bid to substantially enhance the charging infrastructure in the country.

Since 2019, TATA.ev has been adding charging points by partnering Tata companies and tie-ups with charge point operators and oil marketing companies under its 'Open Collaboration' framework.

Balance growth with sound practices: RBI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sanjay Malhotra

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Thursday asked heads of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to balance growth aspirations with sound practices for ensuring inclusive development, customer protection and financial stability.

During his meeting with managing directors and chief executive officers of select NBFCs across layers, including government NBFCs, housing finance companies and micro-finance institutions, he also underscored the significance of ensuring fair treatment to customers and putting in place a prompt grievance redressal mechanism.

Urging the NBFCs to further their contribution towards financial inclusion, the Governor urged them to become part of Unified Lending Interface (ULI) being put in place by the Reserve Bank.

Representatives from self-regulatory organisations (SROs), Sa-Dhan and micro finance Institutions network (MFIN) as well as Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) participated in the meeting.

NCLT nod for JSW's ₹16,000-cr. bid for KSK Mahanadi Power

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

In a major development, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Hyderabad on Thursday approved JSW Energy Ltd.'s ₹16,084.08 crore resolution plan to acquire the bankrupt KSK Mahanadi Power Company Ltd.

As per the approved plan, against the admitted claims of more than ₹26,094 crore, the KSK Mahanadi's creditors will get ₹16,084.08 crore.

Upfront cash

The plan provides for upfront cash payment of ₹15,985.08 crore to financial creditors of KSK Mahanadi, which is nearly 50% of their admitted claims. The major financial creditors include Aditya Birla ARC Limited, Prudent ARC Limited, Power Finance Corporation Limited, Rural Electrification Corporation among others.

Debt, equity funding

JSW Energy plans to fund the acquisition through ₹13,000 crore in debt and ₹3,084.08 crore in the form of quasi-equity.

JSW will identify a bid company to buy KSK Mahanadi. The firm would be merged with KSK Mahanadi, as per the resolution plan. The NCLT had admitted KSK Mahanadi into the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process on October 3, 2019 , following a petition filed by Power Finance Corporation.

Artificial intelligence can be a Y2K moment for India: MeitY Secretary

K. V. Kurmanath
HYDERABAD

S. Krishnan

Rapid advancements in the AI landscape could well be a Y2K moment. "It is an opportunity for the Indian IT industry to develop applications for deployment globally, not just within India," said S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Krishnan noted that globally many are looking to India to do this, especially in the Global South. He emphasised leveraging the STEM (science, technology, mathematics, and engineering) human resources in India to achieve this.

It may be recalled that the Y2K – Year 2000 – had engendered the fear that computers would get confused when the year changed from 1999 to 2000. This resulted in a huge opportunity for the Indian IT industry.

Addressing a select group of business and industry leaders at a 'Breakfast with *businessline*' event hosted by ITC Kohenur here on Thursday moderated by *businessline* Editor Raghuvir Srinivasan, the MeitY official said the country should follow a three-pronged approach towards artificial intelligence.

Frugal models

Besides promoting the building of applications over existing Large Language Models like OpenAI, Gemini Advanced, and Llama, the government would encourage building models on top of existing open-source AI models, factoring in India's own knowledge to create a foundational model.

He said China's DeepSeek R1 has given the country the confidence that a foundational model can be built frugally, without guzzling resources.

Stating that the movement of data is common while using apps, Mr. Krishnan said the government was closely monitoring data movement.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	76,139	-0.04
US Dollar	86.93	0.02
Gold	88,100	0.16
Brent oil	74.95	-1.27

NIFTY 50

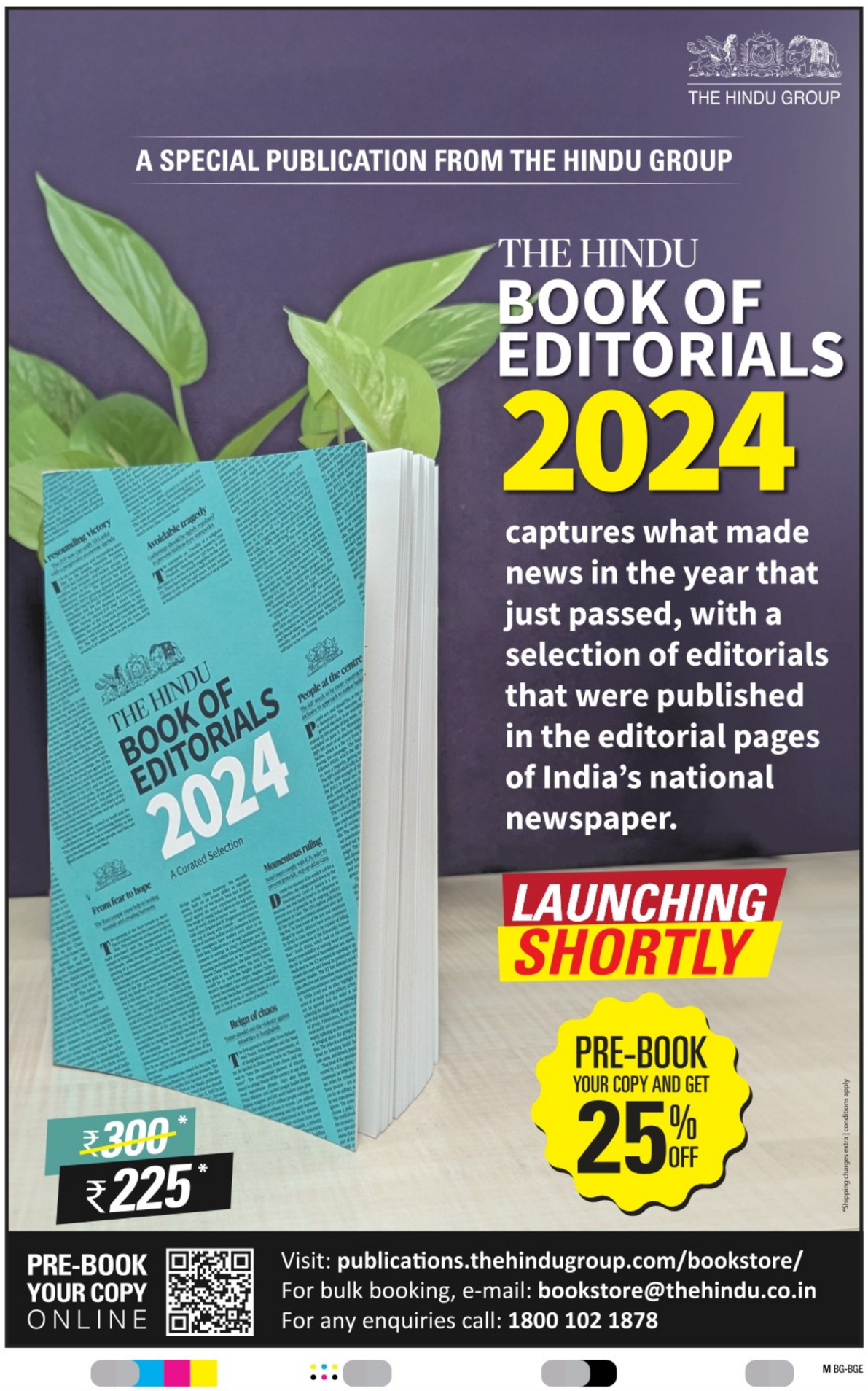
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2244.70	-108.75
Adani Ports	1111.55	-17.40
Apollo Hosp	6372.20	-2.35
Asian Paints	2236.40	8.15
Axis Bank	1008.20	1.30
Bajaj Auto	8691.35	-20.25
Bajaj Finserv	1849.25	60.55
Bajaj Finance	8409.00	194.95
Bharat Elec	261.55	2.40
Bharti Airtel	1714.60	3.05
BPCL	255.75	0.15
Britannia Ind	4888.70	-29.60
Cipla	1472.15	22.95
Coal India	361.65	1.30
Dr Reddys Lab	1223.60	7.75
Eicher Motors	4820.40	-29.05
Grasim Ind	2490.10	5.15
HCL Tech	1703.10	-14.20
HDFC Bank	1697.70	-9.10
HDFC Life	629.60	0.45
Hero MotoCorp	3956.55	-59.20
Hindalco	602.50	3.60
Hind Unilever	2321.50	-11.00
ICICI Bank	1248.90	-2.90
IndusInd Bank	1047.25	7.60
Infosys	1843.25	-19.90
ITC	409.70	-0.20
JSW Steel	969.80	13.40
Kotak Bank	1972.80	28.85
L&T	3263.65	-26.00
M&M	2978.00	-9.20
Maruti Suzuki	12671.30	15.75
NestleIndia	2177.55	-16.20
NTPC	306.70	0.45
ONGC	234.95	-2.45
PowerGrid Corp	259.15	2.10
Reliance Ind	1216.10	-0.45
SBI Life	1470.50	18.35
State Bank	727.65	-5.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	548.65	1.50
Sun Pharma	1746.35	52.50
TataConsumerProduct	1022.80	-6.95
Tata Motors	683.85	-0.50
Tata Steel	136.25	3.97
TCS	3910.15	-40.00
Tech Mahindra	1675.30	-4.90
Titan	3231.50	-23.95
Trent Ltd.	5256.80	19.50
UltraTech Cement	11546.45	67.95
Wipro	308.55	-1.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.70	87.02
Euro	90.39	90.72
British Pound	108.39	108.80
Japanese Yen (100)	56.38	56.59
Chinese Yuan	11.89	11.93
Swiss Franc	95.61	95.97
Singapore Dollar	64.28	64.53
Canadian Dollar	60.67	60.89
Malaysian Ringitt	19.45	19.53
Australian Dollar	54.35	54.55

Source:Indian Bank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COPENHAGEN

Denmark pledges $1.4 million in aid to UNRWA after Israeli ban

REUTERS

The Danish government said it was pledging an additional 10.2 million kroner ($1.4 million) to the UN's Palestinian refugee agency, which has been banned from operating in Israel. After Israel accused UNRWA of providing cover for Hamas militants, Israel passed a law to bar the agency from operating on Israeli soil as of January 30. AFP

MEXICO CITY

Mexico threatens to sue Google over 'Gulf of America' listing

AFP

Mexico threatened to sue Google over its changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to "Gulf of America" for Maps users in the U.S. to comply with Mr. Trump's executive order. "We do have a dispute with Google at the moment," President Claudia Sheinbaum said. "And if necessary, we will file a civil suit," she added. AFP

GRENOBLE

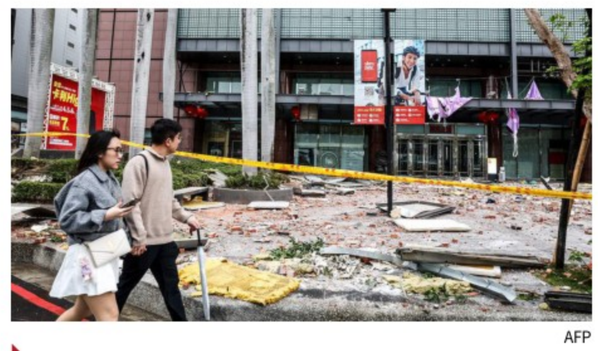
French police hunt suspect after grenade attack on bar injures 12

AFP

The French police were searching for a man who hurled a grenade into a bar in the southeast city of Grenoble, injuring 12 persons. The motive of the attacker has not been established but officials did not believe it was a "terrorist attack". The incident happened at around 8 p.m. when many clients were present. AFP

TAICHUNG

Suspected gas explosion kills four at a department store in Taiwan



AFP

A suspected gas explosion in a Taiwan department store killed at least four people and injured 29, authorities said on Thursday, with the force of the blast spraying large pieces of debris over the street below. The blast happened in the food court on the 12th floor of the Shin Kong Mitsukoshi department store in the city of Taichung. AFP

Iran vows to rebuild nuclear sites if attacked

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Thursday said his country would rebuild its nuclear facilities if attacked, following U.S. media reports that Israel was likely to launch a strike on key Iranian nuclear sites.

"They are threatening us that they will attack our Natanz nuclear facility. Come and attack it. It is the brains of our children that built it," Mr. Pezeshkian said during a visit to the southern province of Bushehr.

"If you destroy a hundred (nuclear facilities), our children will build a thousand," he said.

Release hostages or face war, warns Israel as Hamas swears by truce deal

We are keen to implement the ceasefire and expect Israel to oblige and fully abide by it, says Hamas; U.S. President Trump had warned of 'hell breaking loose' if the hostages were not released; Israel reiterates its demand for release of 3 hostages

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel warned on Thursday that Hamas must release three hostages this weekend or face a resumption of the war in Gaza, after the Palestinian militant group said it was committed to the truce agreement.

Palestinian sources reported progress in efforts to salvage the ceasefire, which was plunged into crisis after Hamas said it would not release hostages on Saturday, citing Israeli violations.

Israel countered that if Hamas failed to free captives on schedule, it would resume military operations.

Little to salvage: Civilians ride a cart past the rubble of a destroyed building in al-Mughraqa in the central Gaza Strip on Thursday. AFP

"We are keen to implement it (the ceasefire) and oblige the occupation to fully abide by it," Hamas spokesman Abdel Latif al-Qanou said, adding that mediators were pushing for Israel "to resume the exchange process on Saturday".

Hamas said it remained committed to carrying out the next exchange "according to the specified timetable".

Israel later insisted Hamas must release "three live hostages" on Saturday under the ceasefire framework.

"If those three are not released, if Hamas does not return our hostages, by Saturday noon, the ceasefire will end," said government spokesman David Mencer.

U.S. President Donald Trump had warned this week that "hell" would break loose if Hamas failed to release "all" the remaining hostages by noon on Saturday.

If fighting resumes, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said, "the new Gaza war... will not end without the defeat of Hamas and the release of all the hostages".

Houthi's threat

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels threatened on Thursday to launch new attacks on Israel if it and its ally the United States went ahead with Mr. Trump's plan to move Palestinians out of Gaza.

At least 28 injured as driver plows into a protest in Germany

Scary vehicle: Police inspect the car which drove into a crowd in Munich in Germany on Thursday. REUTERS

Associated Press
BERLIN

A driver drove a car into a labor union demonstration in central Munich on Thursday, injuring at least 28 people including children, authorities said. Officials said it was believed to be an attack.

The suspect, an Afghan asylum-seeker, was arrested. The incident follows a series of attacks involving immigrants in recent months that have pushed migration to the forefront of the campaign for Germany's February 23 election.

Workers union protest

Participants in a demonstration by the service workers' union ver.di were walking along a street at about 10:30 a.m. when the car overtook a police vehicle following the gathering, accelerated and plowed into the back of the group, police said.

Officers arrested the suspect after firing a shot at the car, deputy police chief Christian Huber said. He added that at least 28 people were believed to be injured, some of them seriously.

Known suspect

The suspect was a 24-year-old Afghan asylum-seeker, Mr. Huber said. Bavaria's State Interior Minister, Joachim Herrmann, said the man was known to authorities in connection with theft and drug offences, but did not give further details. He said officials believe the protest was likely targeted at random.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz described the latest incident as "a terrible attack."

"Anyone who commits crimes in Germany will not just be punished severely and have to go to prison, but must expect that he cannot continue his stay in Germany – and that also goes for countries that it is very difficult to send people back to," he said.

The chancellor noted that his government deported convicted criminals to Afghanistan on a flight in August and is working to do so again – "and not just once, but continually."

Adani Green quits renewable energy project in Sri Lanka

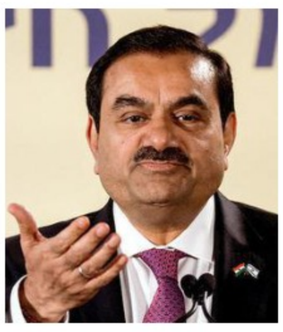
Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Adani Green on Wednesday withdrew from a controversial $ 442-million renewable energy project in northern Sri Lanka, amid fierce opposition from locals and a legal battle over its approval and potential environmental impact.

The company's withdrawal from the big-ticket renewable energy project in Sri Lanka signals a significant retreat, given the Adani Group's investment push in India's neighbourhood in recent years. The move also amounts to a win for Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Dissanayake who, ahead of his election in September 2024, vowed to cancel the "corrupt" project. Months into office, however, his government appeared willing to renegotiate it.

In January, the Dissanayake administration decided to revoke a 2024 power purchasing agreement – cleared by his predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe – in which Sri Lanka had agreed to purchase power at $0.0826, or 8.26 cents, per kWh from Adani Green, and sought a lower tariff.

In a February 12, 2025 letter addressed to Sri Lanka's Board of Investment seen by *The Hindu*, Adani Green said following the Sri Lankan government's recent decision to renegotiate the project, it decided to "respectfully withdraw from the said project". Citing "protracted discussions" with the Ceylon Electricity Board for over two years, on the 484 MW renewable energy wind farms to be set up in Mannar and Pooneryn towns in northern Sri Lanka, the company said it had envisaged a total investment of nearly $ 1 billion for the "build-own-operate" project.



Gautam Adani

Adani Green's wind farm project in northern Sri Lanka has remained contentious from the time it was approved by the Gotabaya Rajapaksa administration in 2022, without a competitive tender process. The successor Wickremesinghe administration took the project ahead, despite serious concerns raised by the political opposition over the apparent lack of due process and transparency, as well as from Mannar residents and activists who flagged potential damage to a key aviation corridor, among other environmental risks, and challenged the project in Sri Lanka's Supreme Court.

In a media statement issued on Thursday an Adani spokesperson said: "Adani Green Energy has conveyed its Board's decision to respectfully withdraw from further engagement in the RE wind energy project and two transmission projects in Sri Lanka."

Meanwhile, the Adani Group is going ahead with the construction of the $ 700-million West Container Terminal at the Colombo port, partnering with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) and conglomerate John Keells Holdings.

As Trump speaks to Putin, EU warns U.S. not to go 'behind our backs' at Ukraine peace talks

Reuters
BRUSSELS

European leaders warned the United States on Thursday against sealing a Ukraine peace deal with Russia behind their backs as they scrambled for a seat at the table after Donald Trump spoke to Vladimir Putin and announced the start of negotiations.

Mr. Trump's move sent shockwaves through European capitals, which want a central role in peace talks because any settlement in Ukraine, hit by a full-scale Russian invasion three years ago, will have ramifications for their own security.

"It is clear that any deal behind our backs will not work. Any agreement will need also Ukraine and Europe being part of it," European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said.

"Why are we giving them (Russia) everything that they want even before the negotiations have been started?" Mr. Kallas said, speaking before a meeting of NATO Defence Ministers with their Ukrainian counterpart in Brussels.

Show of strength: NATO Defence Ministers and senior NATO officials pose at a meeting in Brussels on Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

"It's appeasement. It has never worked."

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth declared on Wednesday it was unrealistic for Ukraine to return to pre-2014 borders and that NATO membership for Kyiv would not be part of a peace deal. Russia seized and annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in 2014.

German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius also said it would have been better if Washington had not given what he called concessions to Moscow before peace talks even started.

Mr. Kallas said any agreement without European and Ukrainian participation would fail and Europe would continue to support Kyiv if it resisted a settlement that was imposed upon it.

"Any quick fix is a dirty deal," Mr. Kallas said.

French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu warned against "peace through weakness" rather than the Trump officials' mantra of "peace through strength".

Not all European leaders were alarmed by Mr. Trump's move.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, a Trump ally, praised the U.S. President and criticised the ministers' statement.

BNP tells India to send back Sheikh Hasina to Bangladesh

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's party said it expects India to repatriate her rival counterpart Sheikh Hasina to stand trial after a UN fact-finding report claimed her ousted regime tried to hold onto power through systematic killings of protesters last year.

Speaking at a press conference here, Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said "We call upon the Indian government today to immediately return her and her accomplices to Bangladesh and hand her over to the government for trial."

Australia, China trade barbs over fighter jets

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Australia said on Thursday that a Chinese fighter jet dropped flares near an Australian air force plane patrolling the South China Sea, accusing Beijing of "unsafe" military conduct.

Beijing swiftly hit back, accusing the Australian plane of "violating Chinese sovereignty and endangering Chinese national security".

Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles said the flares passed within 30m of the aircraft, which carried nine people. No one was injured but Marles said the move posed the "potential for damage".

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारत्न कंपनी)

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Pant Krishi Bhawan, Janpath, Jaipur- 302005
(Email id: jdh.nur.hort@rajasthan.gov.in)
(Telephone No. 0141-2227606)
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Bids are invited electronically from 06.02.2025 to 12.02.2025 by Commissionerate of Horticulture for Rate Contract for supply of **Secondary Hardened Tissue Cultured Datepalm plants variety Barhee, Medjool, Khunezi (Female) & Al-En City or Madsari and Ghannami (Male) with DNA Fingerprint report** at different districts in Rajasthan.
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, e-procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in of the Sate; and Departmental website. The Estimated cost of the BID inclusive GST is Rs 6.00 Cr.
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242513 006315	Stretch Film 50 Microns - 50 CM Width 22/24/50 CM Dia for Unit-I & II.	27.02.2025
242513 005942	Procurement of New Online Kappa Brightness Module for Kappa Analyser	26.02.2025
Email	242523003906 - purchase.pulp@tnpl.co.in 242513006312 ; 6315 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in 242513005942 - purchase.inst@tnpl.co.in	

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FORCED CHANGES

MI, RCB name Parunika and Nuzhat as injury replacements

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mumbai Indians has named Parunika Sisodia, right, as a replacement for injured all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar in the Women's Premier League, the franchise said on Thursday. Royal Challengers Bengaluru, meanwhile, opted for wicketkeeper-batter Nuzhat Parween in place of injured wrist spinner Asha Sobhana.

EXCITED

Skipper Gardner eager to make the most of Giants' home fixtures

SPORTZPICS/WPL

Ahead of Gujarat Giants' WPL opener against RCB in Vadodara, skipper Ashleigh Gardner expressed excitement about playing at home for the first time. "We get to play in front of our home fans for the first time, which is exciting. Hopefully, we can start the season the way we really want to," she said.

FANTASTIC EFFORT

India's fielding has been incredibly satisfying, says coach Dilip

VIJAY SONEJI

India's fielding coach T. Dilip was pleased with the Men in Blue's performance in the 3-0 whitewash of England in the ODI series. "I think fantastic effort by everyone. We as a team take a lot of pride in fielding and to see us execute with composure and consistency throughout this series was incredibly satisfying," Dilip said.

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

NEUFC rides on Ajaraie's twin strikes, jumps to fourth spot

@NEUTDFC

Alaaeddine Ajaraie scored a brace as NorthEast United beat host Jamshedpur FC 2-0 in the ISL on Thursday. The Highlanders jumped to fourth spot with 32 points from 21 matches while Jamshedpur remained in third place with 34 points from 20 games. **The result:** Jamshedpur FC 0 lost to NorthEast United FC 2 (Ajaraie 6, 81).

Superstars and budding stars ready for T20 extravaganza

Fascinating action in store as the premier league takes centrestage; Season 3 expands to two new venues — Vadodara and Lucknow — to draw more attention to women's cricket in the country; Royal Challengers meet Giants on Friday

WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
VADODARA

This historic city in western India was the venue for a women's ODI series when an Australian side came thirsting for revenge.

In the semifinal of the 2017 World Cup at Derby, the Aussies had been stunned by India – by an incredible knock by Harmanpreet Kaur, to be more precise. That innings, 171 not out off 115 balls, would prove a turning point for the women's game in India.

Many fans in the country discovered that women also played this glorious game. That was evident in the huge turnouts for the ODI series at the Reliance Cricket Stadium here nearly seven years ago. One recalls the full house that came to watch Mithali Raj's Women in Blue take on Meg Lanning's mighty Australia.

Lanning is back in the city; so are some of her teammates from that series – Ellyse Perry, Beth Mooney, Ashleigh Gardner and Jess Jonassen.

They are all here for one of the world's fastest growing leagues – the Women's Premier League, the third edition of which kicks off on Friday.

Modern facility

But they will showcase their skills at a new venue. The BCA Stadium, where India had hosted the West Indies in a women's ODI series a couple of months ago, is one of the excellent modern cricket grounds in India.

Over the next week, this stadium, about 25 km away from the city, should witness some fascinating cricket, with many of the planet's biggest stars turning out for the five franchises.

In the opening match, defending champion Royal Challengers Bengaluru takes on Gujarat Giants, which is playing at home for the first time.

After the Vadodara leg, the league will move to Bengaluru, Lucknow and then Mumbai, where the final will be played on March 15. It should be interesting to watch out not just for some great cricket, but a few stars to emerge as well.

Match begins at 7.30 p.m.

It's WPL time again

The third edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) is ready to roll and the T20 caravan will move across four cities in its month-long journey

Season	Champion	Orange Cap	Purple Cap
2023	MI	Lanning (DC)	Matthews (MI)
2024	RCB	Perry (RCB)	Shreyanka (RCB)

How the teams fared

Season	DC	GG	MI	RCB	UPW
2023	Runner-up	5th	Winner	4th	3rd
2024	Runner-up	5th	3rd	Winner	4th

At the peak

Batting		Bowling	
Most runs	Lanning (676, 18 inns), DC	Most wickets	Ecclestone (27, 17 inns), UPW
Highest	Devine 99 (RCB vs GG, Mumbai, 2023)	Best bowling	Perry 6/15 (RCB vs MI, Delhi, 2024)

- Defending champion RCB meets GG in the season opener in Vadodara on Friday
- The final will be played in Mumbai on March 15
- There will be a total of 22 matches
- For the first time, the tournament will be held in four cities — Vadodara, Bengaluru, Lucknow and Mumbai

Smriti upbeat despite loss of key personnel

P.K. Ajith Kumar
VADODARA

Given the kind of setbacks her team has had to deal with even before WPL 3 got underway, it was a tribute to her character that Smriti Mandhana could flash that winning smile of hers so often on Thursday evening.

The past few weeks saw Royal Challengers Bengaluru losing some of its key personnel due to injury or personal reasons. Sophie Devine, New Zealand's T20 World Cup-winning captain, has taken a break. Sophie Molineux and Asha Sobhana, the two spinners who shared 24 wickets evenly to help RCB finally win a trophy, are injured. Asha has been replaced by wicket-keeper Nuzhat Parween.

Talking to reporters ahead of RCB's match against Gujarat Giants, Smriti said the team had been bracing for the unavailability of Asha. "She was pretty much one of our main-wicket takers for us last year, but when she got injured during the World Cup we knew that might not get her services," she said. "But we wanted to retain her at the auction. Since we knew that she might be unavailable, we went hard at the auction for Prema (Rawat)."

Smriti admitted losing both the Sophies was a blow, but said that she was relieved that Ellyse Perry joined the team. "We look like a complete side now," she said. "We are really looking forward to the WPL's third edition."

Perry... all set to play.
X@RCBTWEETS

While this is going to be the third WPL for Smriti as captain, it is going to be a first for Gujarat Giants' Ashleigh Gardner. She has a task on her hands, though. The Giants had finished at the bottom in both the previous editions.

"We are ready to rewrite the books," the champion Australian all-rounder said. "We are confident and it is awesome that we are finally going to play in front of our home fans".

Rajat Patidar.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Patidar is new RCB captain

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Rajat Patidar was named the captain of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) ahead of IPL 2025, the franchise announced at a media event here on Thursday.

Retained Indian players Virat Kohli and Patidar were credible captaincy options, RCB Team Director Mo Bobat stated. "Virat was an option - that goes without saying. The fans would have probably leant towards Virat, but we've seen a lot of love for Rajat too.

"Virat doesn't need a captaincy title to lead. Leadership is one of his strongest instincts," Bobat said.

In a video message played at the event, Kohli congratulated Patidar and stated that the entire team backed him fully.

RCB head coach Andy Flower did not give a definitive answer when asked if Kohli declined a captaincy offer.

Plenty of gains for Men in Blue ahead of Champions Trophy

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

Pulling his weight: Axar had an impressive series with both bat and ball. VIJAY SONEJI

One of the consequences of having an ICC event every year is that all other series become training grounds for the nearest marquee global competition. Bilateral cricket, once the bedrock of the international limited-overs game, hardly matters as matches now resemble testing sites for teams to firm up their combinations.

The three-match ODI series between India and England that finished here on Wednesday is the latest example of this phenomenon. And going by how the two teams fared, it is India, which won 3-0, that will be mighty pleased ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy that begins next week in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

Encouraging signs

Prior to the series, India's prime concern was to plan for Jasprit Bumrah's absence at the Champions Trophy. While a like-for-like replacement for Bumrah's genius is impossible, there are now signs that varied personnel will be trusted to bring a diverse set of skills and plug the hole. The think-tank will hope for Harshit Rana's wicket-taking ability, Arshdeep Singh's death-bowling skills and Varun Chakaravarthy's long-enduring mystery to act as cover.

Shot in the arm

Mohammed Shami's return to full fitness is also a shot in the arm as India will look to the premier fast bowler to reproduce the 2023 World Cup magic.

There were also gains on the batting front as Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill roared back to form with centuries, and accumulated 122 and 259 runs respectively. Virat Kohli too made a half-century in the third ODI, raising hopes that his best form may be round the corner. Shreyas Iyer was excellent in his role as a middle-order enforcer, totalling 181 runs from three games at a remarkable strike-rate of 123.12.

Aggressive tactics

The way head coach Gautam Gambhir and skipper Rohit strategised against England gave a good sneak peek into how they wanted to approach the game.

Be it the way Rohit, Gill, Kohli and Shreyas batted or the attacking bowling changes that were introduced in the middle-overs, it showed that India was not ready to let the game meander.

Gambhir is also a firm believer in having a southpaw up top or in the middle-order. But having replaced opener Yashasvi Jaiswal with Varun in the Champions Trophy squad, it will most likely be Axar Patel's job - or possibly Ravindra Jadeja's - to offer that variety.

In fact, Axar has batted at No. 5 or No. 6 in four of his last five ODI innings and made scores of 44, 2, 52 and 41 n.o., proving that he is very much the trusted man.

2025 *Sportstar* Aces Awards to be given away in Mumbai today

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

The 2025 *Sportstar* Aces Awards will be held at the Taj Mahal Palace here on Friday evening. This year, there are 24 categories of awards, among them five Popular Choice and 16 Jury Awards.

Popular Choice awards

The five Popular Choice Awards are Sportstar of the Year (male), Sportstar of the Year (female), National Team of the Year, Club/State Team of the Year, and Sporting Moment of the Year, which have got more than two lakh votes.

The Jury Awards encompass a range of categories, including Sportsman of the Year (Non-Olympic Sport), Sportswoman of the Year (Non-Olympic Sport), Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field), Sportswoman of the Year (Track and Field), Sportsman of the Year (Olympic Sport), Sportswoman of the Year (Olympic Sport), Sportsman of the Year (Para Sport), Sportswoman of the Year (Para Sport), Coach of the Year, Young Achiever of the Year (Male), Young Achiever of the Year (Female), Best State for Promotion of Sport, Best Corporate for Promotion of Sport, Best PSU for Promotion of Sport, Best University for Promotion of Sport and Lifetime Achievement Award. Additionally, the Chairperson's Award for Sports for Social Good will honour individuals or organisations that have utilised sports to drive positive change.

This is a special moment. And I think chess is a sport which will be in the sports awards a lot over the next decade at least

VISWANATHAN ANAND

I think each sportsperson in India deserves recognition and praise. We're here to celebrate the athletes themselves

APARNA POPAT

It feels good that the shooting federation made intelligent and smart decisions after Tokyo.

ANJALI BHAGWAT

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Special awards

Two special awards, the Special Recognition – Gamechanger and Inspirational Icon Award, will also be presented.

A nine-time national title winner in badminton and two-time Olympian, jury Aparna Popat stressed that in a country like India, it is important to celebrate not just the performance but the individual as well, which acts as a source of motivation.

The jury

The jury, chaired by Sunil Gavaskar, comprises a distinguished panel of other sports icons, including M.M. Somaya, Abhinav Bindra, Viswanathan Anand, Anjali Bhagwat, and Aparna.

INBRIEF

Mumbai adds Jaiswal to squad for Ranji semifinal

Flamboyant India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was on Thursday drafted into the Mumbai squad for its upcoming Ranji Trophy semifinal against Vidarbha, strengthening the domestic giant ahead of the big game in Nagpur. Jaiswal was initially named in India's preliminary squad for the Champions Trophy but was omitted from the final list.

Indian shuttlers advance despite loss to South Korea

India went down to South Korea 2-3 in a Group-D tie of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship in Qingdao, but it had already made it to the quarterfinals after finishing second in the pool on Thursday.

The result: India lost to South Korea 2-3 (Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto lost to Cheng Su Yin & Hoo Pang Rongo 21-11, 12-21, 15-21; Malvika Bansod lost to Sim Yu Jin 9-21, 10-21; Sathish Karunakaran bt Cho Geonyeop 17-21, 21-18, 21-19; Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopi Chand bt Kim Min Ji and Kim Yu Jung 19-21, 21-16, 21-11; M.R. Arjun & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy lost to Jin Yong and NA Sung Seung 14-21, 15-21).

India Khelo Football ties up with Sportscast

India Khelo Football (IKF) has announced a strategic partnership with Sportscast, a premier broadcasting company known for covering major sports events. IKF, known for its extensive pan-India talent-hunt initiatives, has been instrumental in identifying and nurturing football talent across the country. The partnership with Sportscast comes ahead of the TYGER IKF Season 5 trials, a monumental 125-city talent hunt, starting on Sunday. This initiative aims to discover football players in over 125 cities and villages across India. Sportscast will serve as the official broadcasting partner for the event. Sportscast will be responsible for recording all trial events and broadcasting them to a wider audience.

Karnataka knocked out of C.K. Nayudu Trophy

Punjab knocked Karnataka out in the quarterfinal of the C.K. Nayudu (u-23) Trophy at Mohali on Thursday. The match ended in a draw, and Punjab progressed to the semifinal on the basis on the first-innings lead.

The scores: Punjab 380 & 283 in 99.5 overs (Jaskaranvir Singh 91, Salil Arora 34, Rahul Kumar 26, Harjas Singh 51, Ayush Goyal 33, Monish Reddy 3/51) drew with Karnataka 177 & 159/5 in 44.4 overs (Harshil Dharmani 66, Manvanth Kumar 44).

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Australia: 2nd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.
Tri-series: (final), Pakistan vs New Zealand, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 2.30 p.m.
I-League: Sony LIV, 7 p.m.
WPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
Premier League: SS Select 2 & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Bayern Munich sinks Celtic as Feyenoord beats AC Milan

Club Brugge gets the better of last season's Europa League winner Atalanta thanks to a controversial stoppage-time penalty

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

On target: Kane, No. 9, cushions in Bayern's second against Celtic. GETTY IMAGES

Harry Kane was on target as Bayern Munich beat Celtic 2-1 in Glasgow in the first leg of their Champions League play-off on Wednesday, while there were also wins for Benfica, Feyenoord and Club Brugge.

Bayern is hoping to go all the way to this season's final, which will be played at its own Allianz Arena in Munich on May 31.

It threatened to run riot against the Scottish champions at Celtic Park as it dominated the first half and took the lead just before the interval thanks to a superb Michael Olise strike.

Bayern's second goal came just four minutes after half-time, with the unmarked Kane scoring with a cushioned finish at the back post following a corner.

However, the Bundesliga leader took its foot off the pedal after that, allowing Celtic – which had a first-minute Nicolas Kuehn goal disallowed for offside – to come back into the game.

Brendan Rodgers' team pulled one back as Daizen Maeda scored following a corner with 11 minutes left, but it could not find an equaliser.

Elsewhere, Vangelis Pavlidis scored the only goal as Benfica won 1-0 away to Monaco, as the home side was forced to play much of the second half with 10 men.

In Rotterdam, Feyenoord shook off the sacking of coach Brian Priske on Monday to beat seven-time European champion AC Milan 1-0 and gain the upper hand to take to San Siro for the return.

The Dutch side was helped by a clanger from Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan, who allowed Igor Paixao's speculative third-minute shot to ricochet off his body and into the net.

Earlier, Club Brugge beat last season's Europa League winner Atalanta 2-1 in Belgium thanks to a controversial stoppage-time penalty.

Ferran Jutgla gave the Belgian side a 15th-minute lead as Atalanta was punished for sloppy play at the back, but Mario Pasalic headed in an equaliser before the break.

That looked to be that until the host was awarded a penalty at the death when substitute Gustaf Nilsson went down after being caught in the face by the outstretched arm of Atalanta defender Isak Hien.

The results: Club Brugge 2 (Jutgla 15, Nilsson 90+4-pen) bt Atalanta 1 (Pasalic 41); Celtic 1 (Maeda 79) lost to Bayern Munich 2 (Olise 45, Kane 49); Feyenoord 1 (Paixao 3) bt AC Milan 0; Monaco 0 lost to Benfica 1 (Pavlidis 48).

Drawing level: Tarkowski rifles in Everton's equaliser against Liverpool. REUTERS

Liverpool held by Everton, four red cards in fiery derby

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LIVERPOOL

James Tarkowski struck in the 98th minute to salvage a 2-2 draw for Everton against Liverpool as four red cards were issued after full-time on a dramatic final Merseyside derby at Goodison Park on Wednesday.

Liverpool edge seven points clear at the top of the Premier League but was denied a vital win by Tarkowski's blistering strike after Mohamed Salah put Arne Slot's men in front.

Everton's Abdoulaye Doucoure, Liverpool midfielder Curtis Jones, Slot and his assistant Sipke Hulshoff were then sent off as tempers flared at the final whistle on a night Liverpool will come to regret if it does not go on to lift a record-equalling 20th English top flight title.

Everton is set to move to a new 53,000 capacity stadium in Liverpool's Bramley Moore Dock next season and gave its home since 1892 a night to remember against its local rival.

The Toffees had won their previous three Premier League games to pull nine points clear of the relegation zone and got off to a flying start.

The result: Everton 2 (Beto 11, Tarkowski 90+8) drew with Liverpool 2 (Mac Allister 16, Salah 73).

Suruchi asserts her class in air pistol

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Suruchi Phogat was in irrepressible form as she outclassed a strong field, beating former World junior champion Sainyam by a 4.9 point margin for the top spot, in women's air pistol in the National shooting trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range on Thursday.

The 18-year-old Suruchi, who had won the women's junior and youth gold medals in the last National championship at the same venue, and had added the National Games gold recently in Dehradun, topped qualification with 586, two points better than the Asian Games champion Palak Gulia.

Manu Bhaker was not at her best form in the final, as she consistently hit the 9s, an unusual experience for her, but won the shoot-off 10.5 to 9.5 in placing ahead of Palak.

In men's air pistol, National champion Varun Tomar beat Ajendra Chauhan by 0.4 point for the top spot. Qualification topper Nishant Rawat (589) placed seventh.

Kiran Jadhav topped men's 50-metre rifle 3-position event, 0.2 point ahead of World Cup gold medallist Akhil Sheoran.

Qualification topper, Olympian Chain Singh (596) placed third ahead of multiple World Cup gold medallist Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar.

The results: 10m air pistol: Men: 1. Varun Tomar 243.2 (584), 2. Ajendra Chauhan 242.8 (582), 3. Amit Sharma 221.7 (586). **Women:** 1. Suruchi Phogat 246.4 (586), 2. Sainyam 241.5 (576), 3. Manu Bhaker 218.9 (581). **50m rifle 3-position: Men:** 1. Kiran Jadhav 460.0 (589), 2. Akhil Sheoran 459.8 (591), 3. Chain Singh 447.2 (596).

Yuvraj Sandhu.

Yuvraj retains the sole lead by one stroke

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Yuvraj Sandhu's two-under 68 helped him retain his sole lead by one stroke after the third round of the season-opening TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship on Thursday.

Yuvraj had a three-day total of 18-under 192. Bangladesh's Jamal Hossain (65-62-66) was second on 193, while Rahil Gangjee struck 66 to be third with 196. S.S.P. Chawrasia (71) was the highest-placed among the city-based professionals as he was tied for the 14th with 201. Local amateur Anshul Mishra (69) was tied-20th (203).

The scores (third round):
192: Yuvraj Sandhu (63, 61, 68);
193: Jamal Hossain (65, 62, 66);
196: Rahil Gangjee (63, 67, 66);
198: Shamim Khan (67, 64, 67);
199: Akshay Sharma (71, 62, 66), Arjun Sharma (63, 67, 69).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya emerges champion

Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya defeated Delhi PS (Electronic City) by 98 runs in the final to emerge champion in the B.T. Ramaiah Shield under-14 Division II tournament.

The scores: final: Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya 251/7 in 50 overs (Sohum Joshi 28, H.S. Siddharth 98, H. Chetas 43 n.o.) bt Delhi PS (Electronic City) 153 in 49 overs (R. Lalithesh 27, Vikrant Ronav Budala 26, Vedant Shaurya 38, S.P. Chiranjith 4/24).

Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya which won the B.T. Ramaiah Shield under-14 Division II tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Big win for Sandeep HC

Sandeep HC whipped Bangalore United HC 13-0 in the KSHA-BHA 'A' Division hockey league.

The results: Bengaluru Blues Hockey Club 'A' 4 (Hari 12, Abbas 15, Nani 29, Dhushal 55) bt Guru HC 3 (T. Venkatesh 23, B. Mehinder 26, Vishnu Yadav 32).

Sandeep HC 13 (Poovanna 10, 45, Royan Rodrigues 18, Sridhar 19, 36, 37, 53, Harsha 23, 39, Shamal 41, Shafas 43, Vishwa 49, Kavan 51) bt Bangalore United HC 0.

Ravishing Beauty for Century Valentine's Million

BENGALURU: Ravishing Beauty, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Century Valentine's Million (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Friday (Feb. 14). False rails (width about 4m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 VANI VILASA SAGARA PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 4-y-o & over, 2-15 p.m.: 1. Lady Godiva (1) R. Robert 62.5, 2. Royal Whisper (3) S. Sachin 62.5, 3. Multisided (2) R. Pradeep 62, 4. Turkoman (4) Siddaraju P 62, 5. Sacred Creator (7) M. Rajesh K 60.5, 6. Bourbon Bay (8) Koshi K 59, 7. Burning Arrow (5) Kiran Rai 58.5 and 8. Recreator (6) Likith Appu 58.
1. TURKOMAN, 2. LADY GODIVA, 3. BURNING ARROW

2 BHADRA PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 6-y-o & over, 2-45: 1. Extraordinary (7) Suhas K 62.5, 2. Thewhisperquietly (9) Trevor 61.5, 3. Bruce Almighty (5) Akshay K 61, 4. The Grey Geranium (8) M. Naveen 59.5, 5. Star Comet (4) Rayan 59, 6. Altamonte (3) Jagadeesh 58.5, 7. Glow In The Dark (1) R. Pradeep 58.5, 8. The Golden Dream (2) A. Ramu 58 and 9. The Strikingly (6) Arvind K 56.5.
1. THEWHISPERQUIETLY, 2. GLOW IN THE DARK, 3. THE GOLDEN DREAM

3 TOKINO MINORU TROPHY (2,000m), rated 40 to 65, 3-15: 1. Isabelle (4) Pavan 60, 2. Rock Bank (3) G. Vivek 58.5, 3. Torobravo (1) L.A. Rozario 57 and 4. Mystical Air (2) Akshay K 55.
1. ROCK BANK, 2. TOROBRAVO

4 HOYSALA SALVER (1,400m), rated 80 & above, 3-45: 1. Imperial Blue (3) Pavan 61, 2. The Flying Feet (4) Arvind K 56, 3. Forseti (1) G. Vivek 53.5, 4. Vivaldo (5) Trevor 52.5 and 5. Vijaya Falcon (2) S. Shareef 51.
1. IMPERIAL BLUE, 2. VIVALDO

5 CENTURY VALENTINE'S MILLION (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-15: 1. Lightning Blitz (2) Suraj 56, 2. Night Raider (9) Antony 56, 3. Striking Arrow (4) Koshi K 56, 4. The Commander (6) Likith Appu 56, 5. Vorfreude (7) G. Vivek 56, 6. Ashwa Kali Bhani (5) Akshay K 54.5, 7. Husanara (1) Vinod Shinde 54.5, 8. Out Into Spotlight (3) S. Shareef 54.5, 9. Ravishing Beauty (10) David Allan 54.5 and 10. Xanthe (8) Trevor 54.5.
1. RAVISHING BEAUTY, 2. LIGHTNING BLITZ, 3. VORFREUDE

6 UTTARA KANNADA PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4-45: 1. Krystallos (8) Trevor 62.5, 2. Cascais (2) Tauseef 54.5, 3. Stentorian (5) Rayan 54, 4. Satin Lass (1) Likith Appu 53.5, 5. N R I Victory (3) Jagadeesh 53, 6. Quick Witted (7) Koshi K 53, 7. She Rules (6) G. Vivek 52.5 and 8. Superhero (4) Vinod Shinde 50.5.
1. KRYSTALLOS, 2. SHE RULES, 3. STENTORIAN

7 VINDICATION PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 5-15: 1. Prime Abbess (5) David Allan 62.5, 2. Southern Force (8) Akshay K 61.5, 3. Super Marvella (2) Darshan 57.5, 4. Classic Charm (3) Trevor 55, 5. Lauterbrunnen (4) Kiran Rai 54.5, 6. Oxytocin (9) A. Ramu 53.5, 7. Springsteen (1) Aleemuddin 53, 8. Solo Prince (6) A. Anamo Hangal 52 and 9. Breeze Bluster (7) Jagadeesh 50.5.
1. PRIME ABBESS, 2. CLASSIC CHARM, 3. SUPER MARVELLA

Day's best: **ROCK BANK**
Double: **IMPERIAL BLUE – PRIME ABBESS**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Tough challenge: Mochizuki booked a spot in the quarterfinals. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Mochizuki ends qualifier Barton's run in pre-quarters

DELHI OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Shintaro Mochizuki of Japan stopped the fine run of qualifier Hynek Barton of Czech Republic 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the pre-quarterfinals of the Dafanews $100,000 Delhi Open Challenger tennis tournament on Thursday.

A former Wimbledon junior champion who had also made the semifinals of the Junior French Open in 2019 when he rose to be world No.1, the 21-year-old Japanese turned the tide in his favour after the Czech had hardly put a foot wrong in the first set.

The fighting qualities and fluent game of Mochizuki would be put to further test by another Czech, the top seed Vit Kopriva, in the quarterfinals.

Niki Poonacha did manage to see off the Japanese duo of Mochizuki and Kaito Uesugi in partnership with Courtney Lock of Zimbabwe in the doubles quarterfinals, later in the day.

NIki and Lock, who won 10-5 in the super tie-break with a combination of sizzling strokes and sharp volleys, will play third seeds Jay Clarke and Johannes Ingildsen in the semifinals.

Elias Ymer of Sweden beat Egor Agafonov to set up a singles quarterfinal against second seed Billy Harris of Britain.

The results: Pre-quarterfinals: Vit Kopriva (Cze) bt Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) 6-4, 6-1; Shintaro Mochizuki (Jpn) bt Hynek Barton (Cze) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; Elias Ymer (Swe) bt Egor Agafonov 6-3, 6-4; Billy Harris (GBR) bt James McCabe (Aus) 7-6(2), 6-3.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Masamichi Imamura & Rio Noguchi (Jpn) bt Enzo Couacaud (Fra) & Kelsey Stevenson (Can) 6-1, 6-4; Hynek Barton & Vit Kopriva (Cze) bt Kris Van Wyk (RSA) & Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) 6-4, 6-1; Jay Clarke (GBR) & Johannes Ingildsen (Den) bt Kimmer Coppejans & Michael Geerts (Bel) 4-6, 6-2, [10-5]; Niki Poonacha & Courtney Lock (Zim) bt Shintaro Mochizuki & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) 6-3, 2-6, [10-5].

Teenager Jash rallies to down Sathiyan, wins maiden crown

Selena keeps her cool under pressure to win the women's title after getting the better of second seed Swastika, emulates her mother Arul Selvi who won the gold in the 1994 edition

NATIONAL GAMES

Stan Rayan
DEHRADUN

Three years ago, when Jash Modi last played Olympian G. Sathiyan, he had lost 4-0. But on Thursday, the Maharashtra youngster came up with an inspired show. He bounced back after losing the first two games to upset the top seed from Tamil Nadu 4-3 and win the men's singles gold in the 38th National Games table tennis on Thursday.

Earlier, Tamil Nadu's Selena Deepthi Selvakumar kept her cool under pressure and took the women's gold with a 4-3 victory over Maharashtra's second-seeded Swastika Ghosh. She was trailing 1-5 in the decider but fought her way back to win her first big National title. The victory also saw the 25-year-old Selena emulate her mother Arul Selvi who had won the singles title at the 1994 National Games in Mumbai.

Champions: Maharashtra's Jash and TN's Selena show off their medals. STAN RAYAN

Jash appeared fresh and determined against the seasoned Sathiyan in the men's final.

"I didn't want to give him easy points, he needed to earn every point from me," said the 18-year-old after his maiden National Games triumph.

Sathiyan won the first two games comfortably, nicely varying the pace of his shots. But once Jash settled down, it became difficult as the Maharashtra youngster won three games in a row and a little later took the final to the decider..

"In the decider, I was just trying to play more and more of my forehand because I was getting points from my forehand," said Jash.

The women's final also went the same way. Selena took the first two games but allowed Swastika to bounce back and win the next three. And in the decider, down 1-5, she levelled at six and won the thriller.

"If I attack, I will get points, but I didn't get much of a chance to attack in the third and fourth games...later on, I knew what I had to do and did that," said Selena.

The results: Men: Final: Jash Modi (Mah) bt G. Sathiyan (TN) 7-11, 6-11, 11-7, 11- 8, 14-12, 6-11, 11-6. **Semifinals:** Sathiyan bt P.B. Abhinand (TN) 12-10, 18-20, 11-3, 5-11, 11-9, 11-4; Jash bt Payas Jain (Del) 7-11, 11-4, 6-11, 11-4, 11-5, 7-11, 11-9.
Doubles: Final: Sathiyan & A. Amalraj (TN) bt P.B. Abhinand & S. Preyesh Raj (TN) 8-11, 11-4, 5-11, 11-6, 11-7.
Women: Final: Selena Deepthi Selvakumar (TN) bt Swastika Ghosh (Mah) 11-7, 11-2, 6-11, 7-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-9.
Semifinals: Selena bt Pritha Vartikar (Mah) 7-11, 16-14, 11-7, 11-9, 11-6; Swastika bt Shriya Anand (TN) 11-7, 11-7, 11-8, 11-6.
Doubles: Final: Swastika & Diya Chitale (Mah) bt Nithyashree Mani & Kavyashree Baskar (TN) 6-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-6.
Mixed doubles: Final: Anirban Ghosh & Sutirtha Mukherjee (WB) bt Chinmaya Somaiya & Reeth Rishya (Mah) 10-12, 6-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-2.

Karnataka men strike gold in hockey

HARIDWAR: Karnataka men and Haryana women won the National Games hockey titles in Haridwar on Thursday.

The results (hockey): Men: Final: Karnataka 3 (C. Shamnath 8, Bharath Mahalingappa Kurtakoti 18, Abharan Sudev 39) bt Uttar Pradesh 2 (Faraz Khan 1, Sharda Nand Tiwari 45). **Third place:** Maharashtra bt Punjab 1-0.
Women: Final: Haryana 4 (Mahima Choudhary 37, Ishika 45 & 50, Monika 55) bt Madhya Pradesh 1 (Aishwarya Chavan 5). **Third place:** Jharkhand bt Maharashtra 2-1.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ENERGY (HR.A1) DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF TELANGANA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission was constituted vide G.O.Ms.No.3, dt.26.7.2014 with Chairman and two Members. Keeping in view the vacancy position of the Members in the Commission, a selection committee for this purpose has been constituted vide G.O.Ms.No.04, Energy (HR.A1) Department, dt.08.02.2025 as per section 85(1) of Electricity Act, 2003. Hence, it is decided to call for nominations from suitable persons for the posts of two Members of the Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission. The appointment would be made in accordance with the terms and conditions and other details as available in the website viz., **www.telangana.gov.in; www.tgerc.telangana.gov.in; www.tgtransco.com, www.tgsouthernpower.org and www.tggenco.com.** The nominations as indicated above are to be sent to the Principal Secretary to Government, Energy Department, **Room No.16, 2nd Floor,** Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad - 500004, and the last date for receipt of nominations is **24-02-2025.**

Sd/- SANDEEP KUMAR SULTANIA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

DIPR R.O.No.10242-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt. 13.02.2025

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THE HINDU GROUP

SOME PLAYED.
SOME PRAYED.
TONIGHT, BOTH WIN.

Behind every win echoes the roar of cheer that fuels it- the unwavering support that powered every stride, shot and victory. You believed in them long before the medals arrived, and now it's time to celebrate their triumphs.

Get ready for the Sportstar ACES Awards where we honour the champions for the passion that fuelled their journey. A celebration of the victories that made history and cemented India's place among the world's best.

Amul
Presents
SPORTSTAR ACES 2025
INDIA TRIUMPHS
In association with IndianOil

February 14, 2025, 6 pm onwards

Scan here to watch the live event.

Associate Partners: LIC, SBI, VELAMMAL NEXUS, NTPC, JAWA YEZDI MOTORCYCLES, Indian Bank
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Broadcast Partner: NDTV 24x7
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Amul CHOCOLATE

CHOCOLATES, IN AS MANY FLAVOURS AS LOVE.

Decadent Milk Chocolates

Made with the goodness of Amul milk, indulge in the creaminess of White Chocolate, nutty Crunchy Peanut, and fruity Raisins 'N' Almonds. Enjoy the popping magic of Choco Crackers or the smooth Velvett Milk Chocolate. For a unique treat, try exotic Camel Milk Sugar-Free or luxurious Belgian Chocolate.

Dark Chocolate Delights

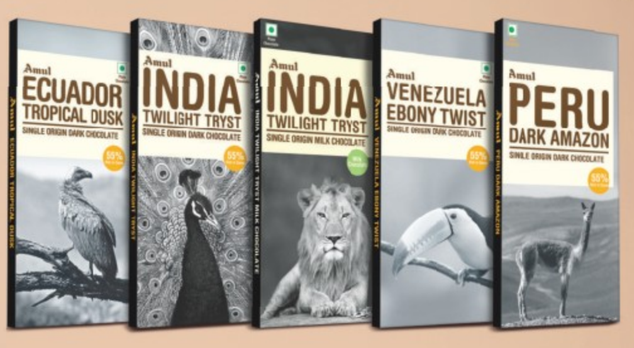
Indulge in a rich selection of dark chocolates. Options include probiotic chocolate, classic premium cocoa, and fruit & nut varieties. For intense chocolate connoisseurs, enjoy chocolates with 75%, 90%, and 99% cacao.

Assorted Gifting Chocolates

From delicious mini chocobites to chocobites in fun animal forms. Filled with roasted almond and coated with milk chocolate. Happiness in the form of truffles enrobed in chocolate.

Irresistible Bars & Wafer Chocolates

Indulge in small milk chocolate bars filled with almonds & marshmallows. Enjoy the crispiness wrapped with dark chocolate. Relish the wafer filled with a layer of chocolate and for your snack cravings bars filled with oats, flaxseeds and nuts.



Single Origin Chocolates

Embark on a journey of exceptional taste with our single origin chocolates, crafted from the finest cocoa sourced from Peru, Venezuela, the tropical Karavali region of Dakshin Kannada (India), and the exotic Arriba Nacional cocoa from Ecuador.

Retro Classics

A classic treat for all retro lovers to enjoy a perfect balance of smooth, rich chocolate.

Express with Chocolates

Chocolates to convey your love and wishes.

Flavourful Syrups

The perfect companion for all your treats, made with the finest cocoa. Available in Chocolate, Caramel & Strawberry flavors, these syrups add a little extra indulgence to your desserts.

Baker's Best Friend

Crafted for the kitchen, these premium compound & couverture chocolates are the secret ingredient for creating your finest baked goods and desserts.

Choco Chips for Baking Bliss

A perfect garnish to top up your baking delights.

Mini Surprises

Experience dark and milk chocolate in its miniature form with our Gable Top packaging.

Available on:

Amul shop.amul.com | Amul Parlours | SMART BAZAAR | blinkit | zepto | bigbasket | SWIGGY instamart | Flipkart Grocery | amazon | SPAR | DMart | more and all leading retail stores